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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1962

No. 655

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, *et al.*,
Petitioners,

vs.

L. SYMES, *et al.*,
Respondents.

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, *et al.*,
Petitioners,

vs.

ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY, *et al.*,
Respondents.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

Petitioners, Pacific Queen Fisheries, *et al.*, pray that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgments of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit entered in the above cases on August 3, 1962.

Opinions Below

The oral opinion of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington (Southern Division) on the facts (R. 227-248) has not been officially or unofficially reported. The oral opinion of the District Court on the law (R. 290-295) also has not been officially or unofficially reported. The District Court's Findings of Fact (R. 249-278, 1051-1093) and Conclusions of Law (R. 279-287) are unofficially reported at 1962 Am. Mar. Cas. 574-600. The opinion of the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is officially reported at 307 F. 2d 700-721 and unofficially reported at 1962 Am. Mar. Cas. 1845-1870. Extensive portions of the District Court's Findings of Fact are printed in footnotes 10, 13, 17 and 19 to the Court of Appeals opinion officially reported at 307 F. 2d 700-721 and these footnotes have been excluded from the reprinting of the Court of Appeals opinion in the Appendix hereto as the pertinent material appears printed in full in the Record (R. 249-278).

Jurisdiction

The judgments of the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit sought to be reviewed were filed and entered on August 3, 1962 and copies thereof are appended to this petition in the Appendix at pages 32a-33a. The opinion of the Court of Appeals, filed August 3, 1962, was modified by the Court, *sua sponte*, by order dated August 31, 1962. (The opinion is reprinted in the Appendix hereto as modified and is hereinafter sometimes designated as "Op.".) The timely petition of appellants below for rehearing was denied by order of the Court of Appeals dated September 13, 1962. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the United States to review the judgments of the Court of Appeals in question is invoked under 28 U. S. C. §§ 1254(1) and 2101(c).

Questions Presented

Pacific Queen Fisheries, a partnership, owned the diesel fishing vessel PACIFIC QUEEN which became a constructive total loss on September 17, 1957 (R. 198-199) owing to a combination of causes including explosion, fire and sinking (R. 1051). Prior to her loss, Pacific Queen Fisheries, hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Fisheries," obtained insurance insuring PACIFIC QUEEN against loss in the sum of $325,000.00 and each of several gillnet fishing boats carried aboard in the agreed amount of $5,000.00 each (R. 199). Following the loss of the vessel, loss of two of her gillnetters and damage to a third gillnetter, Fisheries furnished respondent insurance underwriters, hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Insurers," proof of the aforementioned losses and abandoned the vessel to Insurers (R. 199). Insurers agreed that the vessel was a constructive total loss, but declined tender of abandonment (R. 199-200). Insurers have not paid to Fisheries any part of the insurance on PACIFIC QUEEN, or on two lost and one damaged gillnetter, although payment has been duly demanded (R. 201).

Insurers raised the following alleged legal defenses, which, according to provisions contained in the insurance contracts (R. 75, 83), must be determined in accordance with English Law and usage, in substantiation of their position that the losses were not covered by the insurance:

1. Fisheries concealed from Insurers circumstances material to the risk.

2. The PACIFIC QUEEN was, with the privity of the assureds, sent to sea in an unseaworthy state.

3. The loss and damage resulted from want of due diligence by the owners of the vessel.

Whether or not any of these defenses may stand, under English law and usage and under all the circumstances of the losses and damage, is the basic question presented by this petition.

Other important questions include:

4. Whether a contractual time bar provision advanced by one of the Insurers, Buffalo Insurance Company, should be given effect.

5. Whether Petitioners herein were rightfully denied a trial by jury.

Constitutional Provision, Statute, Act, and Rules Involved

The pertinent portions of *U. S. Const.* amend. VII; *Fed. R. Civ. P.* 38(d), 39(b) and 81(c); *Revised Code of Washington* § 4.44.100; British *Marine Insurance Act*, 1906, 6 Edw. 7, C. 41, Sections 17, 18, 39(5) and 55(2)(a); are set forth in the Appendix hereto beginning at page 34a.

Statement of the Case

Diversity of citizenship existing, and the amount in controversy exceeding $10,000.00, the District Court had jurisdiction to hear the consolidated cases under the provisions of Sections 1332 and 1441(a) of Title 28, United States Code (Op. 1a). The basic facts, which are not in dispute, are as follows:

Beginning in 1950, Fisheries operated the PACIFIC QUEEN between Puget Sound, Washington and Bristol Bay, Alaska, as a refrigerated vessel to freeze and transport catches of salmon from Alaska to ports on Puget Sound (Op. 2a). After the relaxation of governmental fish conservation measures in 1951, PACIFIC QUEEN carried aboard several gasoline powered fishing boats, known as "gillnetters," whose function it was to catch and transport salmon to the mother ship for freezing (Op. 2a-3a; R. 1054).

During the years beginning 1950, Fisheries insured PACIFIC QUEEN with various insurance companies (Op. 3a[1]). During the month of May, 1955, Fisheries' insurance broker requested United States Salvage Association to make a condition survey of the PACIFIC QUEEN (Op. 3a[1]). The survey was accomplished by one Edward Marquat and his report of survey (Pltffs.' Exh. 16[1]; R. 630) dated May 13, 1955 reads, in part, as follows:

> "Case No. 78-918
> Inspection for
> Insurance Purposes
> May 13, 1955
> D/V 'PACIFIC QUEEN'
>
> • • •
>
> THIS REPORT IS EXCLUSIVELY
> FOR THE USE AND INFORMATION
> OF UNDERWRITERS
>
> • • •
>
> Fuel and Water Capacities:
> Fuel 49,000 gallons
> Water 14,000 "
> Gas 3,000 "
> (Gasoline tanks under deck
> aft, proper filling lines and
> vents to atmosphere)
>
> • • •
>
> Ten 30-foot power seine
> skiffs are nested and lashed to the
> upper deck of this vessel."

The PACIFIC QUEEN did not engage in Alaskan operations in 1956 (Op. 4a[1]). On about May 2, 1957, and prior to the opening of the new king salmon fishing season, Fisheries' insurance brokers again requested United States Salvage Association to make a condiction survey of the PACIFIC QUEEN (Op. 4a[1]). This time the survey was accomplished by one J. E.

[1] Offered, R. 348; received R. 351.

Elkins, an experienced surveyor, and his report of survey (Pltffs.' Exh. 17;[1] R. 631) dated May 3, 1957 reads, in part, as follows:

"Case No. 78-3155
INSPECTION REPORT
COMPOSITE 'PACIFIC QUEEN'

* * *

THIS REPORT IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE USE AND INFORMATION OF UNDERWRITERS

* * *

4. Intended Service: Mother ship for salmon gillnet operations.

* * *

24. Other Particulars Not Noted Above: This vessel acts as mother ship to 12 power gillnet boats.

* * *

26. Remarks, Including Existing Damages: Gillnet Boats

Approximately 30' x 8' powered with 4-cylinder gasoline engine. Considerable damage around guards and open seams in hull. Owner has crew of men repairing gillnet boats and same will be in good operating condition before departure for Bristol Bay.

27. Recommendations, and Date Given Owner: May 2, 1957

(1) All weather doors on main deck to have gaskets received and dogs freed up.

(2) Check CO_2 system.

* * *

[1] Offered, R. 348; received R. 351.

> 32. Vessel has been inspected while afloat at Tacoma, Washington and upon compliance with above recommendations, in the opinion of the undersigned, will be in satisfactory condition for operation"

Mr. Galbreath, a vice-president of Marine Office of America which was (and may still be) the marine manager for Glenns Falls Insurance Company, one of the Insurers, *admitted* at the trial that the surveyors were employed by Insurers (R. 778), the survey fees were paid by Insurers (R. 777) and that Insurers required the surveys (R. 790) before passing upon requests for insurance. Mr. Galbreath further *admitted* (R. 780, 783-786) that:

> "We knew if she had—were using these tanks that had been mentioned in previous surveys for gasoline carrying—the purpose of putting the gasoline in those tanks was to fuel her own gillnet vessels."

At some date subsequent to the May 13, 1955 Marquat condition survey, and prior to the attachment of insurance on May 24, 1957, Fisheries increased the gasoline tank capacity of PACIFIC QUEEN from 3,000 to 8,000 gallons and inserted below-deck exposed gasoline discharge valves into fittings that had been designed and used for insertion of permanently secured drainage plugs (Op. 5a). The District Court's finding that these changes materially increased the risk was found by the Court of Appeals not to be "clearly erroneous" (Op. 16a). There is *no* evidence in the record herein (nor has any been alleged by Insurers), however, indicating whether or not these changes were accomplished prior to or subsequent to the Elkins condition survey of May 2, 1957.

On May 27, 1957, the PACIFIC QUEEN departed from Seattle and proceeded to Alaskan waters to engage in fishing (Op. 5a). After she returned from Alaska, she shifted to various Puget Sound docks and was then sent to Friday Harbor, San

Juan Islands, Washington (Op. 5a). On September 9, 1957, while at Friday Harbor, 500 to 600 gallons of gasoline were spilled from one of the vessel's tanks in its hold into the interior of the vessel (Op. 5a-6a). The spillage was reported to one of owners and manager of the vessel (petitioner Mardesich) who inspected the vessel on the day of the spill but who gave no specific orders as to the methods to be used in cleaning her (Op. 6a). The Court of Appeals described the cleaning methods employed by the crew as follows:

> "In an attempt to purge the vessel of gasoline, cold water, sprayed through a hose, was used to wash down the area. After removal of all visible traces of gasoline, the area was again washed down with cold water, and a bilge cleaning solvent was used in an attempt to remove the gasoline from the wooden hull. Portable blowers were used to remove gasoline fumes from the vessel. Then, on the evening of September 10, 1957, the vessel's ventilation blowers were placed into operation to free the vessel from gasoline fumes" (Op. 6a).

On the evening of September 11, 1957, PACIFIC QUEEN departed from Friday Harbor and proceeded to Seattle (Op. 7a). On September 15, 1957, she left Seattle and proceeded to Tacoma where she tied up at "Old Town Dock" at approximately 4:35 P.M. (Op. 7a). At approximately 4:00 A.M. on the morning of September 17, 1957, a violent explosion occurred on board the PACIFIC QUEEN which the Court of Appeals stated could only have been consistent with an explosion of gasoline vapor origin (Op. 7a). As a result of the explosion and fire, the vessel sank at the dock in approximately 30 feet of water (R. 1051) and became a constructive total loss (R. 1081-1082). The source of the explosion's ignition is unknown (Op. 7a). It could have been a spark from a cigarette, or a match, or an electric contact, or other accidental source (Op. 7a).

In the suits arising out of the loss of PACIFIC QUEEN brought by Fisheries against Insurers, the District Court,

sitting without a jury, held Insurers free from liability on the insurance contracts and, from the judgment (R. 288-290) so holding, Fisheries appealed to the Court of Appeals (Op. 7a-8a). The Court of Appeals, for the reasons stated in its opinion, affirmed (Op. 31a) the judgment of the District Court.

ARGUMENT

I

The Court of Appeals decision diverges from English Law and usage.

The courts of the United States, and notably the United States Supreme Court, have expressly announced and followed a policy of deference to the English decisions in the field of marine insurance, recognizing not only the longer experience of those courts but also the great desirability of uniformity, given the close connections of the American and British insurance markets. *Gilmore & Black, The Law of Admiralty*, 50 (1957). The marine policy in common use in the United States is largely a transcript from the policy formerly adopted by Lloyds of London, foremost marine underwriters. 1 *Richards on Insurance*, § 18 (5th ed., 1952). *See also: Winter on Marine Insurance*, 139 (3rd ed., 1952). Because there are "special reasons for keeping in harmony with the marine insurance laws of England, the great field of this business," *Queen Ins. Co.* v. *Globe & Rutgers F. Ins. Co.*, 263 U. S. 487, 493 (1924), divergence as to marine insurance law between decisions of the courts of the United States and of England has been repeatedly recognized by this Court as a reason for granting a writ of certiorari. 4 *Benedict on Admiralty*, § 391 (6th ed., 1940). See: *Aetna Ins. Co.* v. *United Fruit Co.*, 304 U. S. 430, 434 (1937); *Standard*

Oil Co. v. *United States*, 340 U. S. 54, 56-57 (1950). The reason for granting a writ should be even more compelling where, as in the cases herein, the divergence of the Court of Appeals is in the face of stipulations in the insurance contracts (R. 75, 83), which the District Court (R. 224-226, 279-280) and the Court of Appeals (Op. 9a) have found to be valid and binding, which state that liability for and settlement of any and all claims are to be determined according to "English Law and usage."

The areas in which the Court of Appeals has not applied or misapplied "English Law and usage" will be pointed up where applicable to each of Insurers' legal defenses that are in issue.

A. Did petitioners conceal circumstances material to the risk?

The Court of Appeals has dismissed as "stilted language" (Op. 11a) the controlling language of Lord Mansfield in *Carter* v. *Boehm*, (1766) 3 Burr 1905, 97 E. R. 1162, which reads:

> "The insured need not mention what the underwriter ought to know; *what he takes upon himself the knowledge of*; or what he waives being informed of." (3 Burr 1910; emphasis added)

In Bates v. *Hewitt*, (1897) L. R. 2 Q. B. 595, Mellor, *J.*, after quoting the above passage, states at page 609:

> "So far as I know, the judgment of Lord Mansfield has never been qualified or questioned."

Accord: *Greenhill* v. *Federal Ins., Co.*, (1927) 1 K. B. 65, 86 ("classical passage"); *Eldridge on Marine Policies*, 20-21 (3rd ed., 1938) ("the leading case" on the subject of waiver).

Insurers, petitioners say, took upon themselves the knowledge of the PACIFIC QUEEN by requiring a condition survey

before granting insurance. By virtue of the 1957 Elkins survey, which set the stage for the issuance of the insurance contracts in question, owners had every reason, under English Law and usage, to be satisfied that the vessel was seaworthy. *Frangos and Others* v. *Sun Insurance Office, Ltd.*, (1934) 49 Ll. L. Rep. 354, 358. The law is not otherwise in the United States. *Compania de Navegacion* v. *Firemen's Fund Ins. Co.*, 277 U. S. 66 (1928); case below—19 F. 2d 493, 495 (insurers made own survey and "thereby waived the implied warranty of seaworthiness"), reversed on grounds not pertinent herein.

Insurers *knew* gas in bulk was to be carried *below deck* (R. 780, 783-786; Marquat Survey—Pltffs.' Exh. 16;[1] R. 630). Under English Law, such knowledge was sufficient notice to Insurers of the nature of the risk involved. *Mann, MacNeal and Steeves* v. *Capital and Counties Insurance Co.*, (1921) 2 K. B. 300, 306 (petrol carried in *tanks* in engine room sufficient notice); approved in *Krelinger and Fernau, Ltd.* v. *Irish National Insurance Co., Ltd.*, (1956) Ir. R. 116 (underwriter sufficiently informed to be put on inquiry as to the details).

Of the two cases pertaining to surveys stressed by the Court of Appeals (Op. 14a-15a), one is not an English decision and neither is an insurance case.

B. Was the *Pacific Queen*, with the privity of petitioners, sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition?

Insurers' defense resting on alleged unseaworthiness existing prior to the Friday Harbor spill of gasoline was waived, as has been pointed out under sub-topic "A" hereof, by Insurers' condition survey of PACIFIC QUEEN for insurance purposes which was conducted and reported by Elkins in May of 1957. The "privity" issue, then, is only relevant to PACIFIC QUEEN's movements subsequent to the spill.

The Court of Appeals (Op. 18a); as did the District Court, has failed to apply the latest English decision, *Cia Naviera Vascongada* v. *British & Foreign Marine Insurance*

[1] Offered R. 348; received R. 351.

Co., Ltd., (1936) 54 Ll. L. Rep. 35, explaining the import of the word "privity" in Section 39(5) of the British *Marine Insurance Act*, 1906. In the *Vascongada* case, which, as herein, involved a time insurance policy, it is stated at page 58:

> "I think that if it were shown that an owner had reason to believe that his ship was in fact unseaworthy and *deliberately* refrained from an examination which would have turned his belief into knowledge, he might properly be held privy to the unseaworthiness of his ship. But the *mere omission to take precautions against the possibility of the ship being unseaworthy cannot, I think, make the owner privy to any unseaworthiness which such precaution might have disclosed.*" (Emphasis added.)

Insurers have never alleged, nor has any court finding been made, that Mardesich (manager and part-owner) or Jasprica (Chief Engineer and part-owner) *deliberately* refrained from an examination of PACIFIC QUEEN after the spill which might have revealed that gasoline "must have soaked and impregnated large parts of the wooden area of the ship" (R. 241). Nor can it be found, under English Law, that the omission to take precautions beyond washing down the affected areas and the employment of blowers and a bilge solvent made the owners privy to any unseaworthiness which any additional precaution might have disclosed.

The *Vascongada* case expresses sound English Law and is founded upon extensive precedent. *Pac. Coast Coal Freighters Ltd. v. Westchester Fire Ins. Co.*, (1926) D. L. R. 963 (Marine Insurance Act "privity" section "a codification of the law as it stood at the time"); *British and Foreign Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. v. Samuel Sanday & Co.*, (1916) 1 A. C. 650, 673 (existing law can only be altered by codifying Act by indisputable language); *Thomas* v. *Tyne and Wear Steamship Freight Insurance Association*, (1917) 1 K. B. 938, 940-941 ("misconduct" necessary); followed in *Cohen* v. *Standard Mar. Ins. Co.*, (1925) 30 Com. Cas. 139, 159.

C. Did the loss and damage to the *Pacific Queen* result from want of due diligence by petitioners?

The PACIFIC QUEEN, as a result of damage to her hull planking caused by the explosion, "ultimately settled on the bottom with a ten degree list" (Op. 7a). According to the Coast Guard findings, which were adopted by the District Court (R. 255), "inrushing sea water" (R. 1082) contributed to the loss of PACIFIC QUEEN which "sank at the dock in approximately 30 feet of water" (R. 1051). The Court of Appeals, nevertheless, stated that "it was proper for the district court to attribute the PACIFIC QUEEN's loss to a gasoline explosion, even if another peril or combination of perils *could* have been a concurrent cause" (Op. 21a).

The law does not play an unreal, metaphysical game of trying to find a single isolatable factor as the sole responsibility to which is to be attributed a loss against which insurance has been bought; as a matter of experience and reason such losses are invariably the resultant of a combination of factors. *Standard Oil Co.* v. *United States*, 340 U. S. 54, 66 (1950) (dissenting opinion). English marine insurance law searches for the *dominant* cause only when there is a pertinent exception to coverage in the policy language. *Leyland Shipping Company* v. *Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society*, (1918) A. C. 350, 363, affirming the case below. In the case below, reported at (1917) 1 K. B. 873, it is stated at page 883:

> "Where, in the case of a vessel at sea, sea water flows into her through an opening in such quantities that the vessel sinks and is lost, that is a loss through a peril of the sea. If the opening were made by a hostile shell or torpedo, and in consequence the vessel fills and sinks, the loss would still be by a peril of the sea * * *."

and at page 887:

> "Another class of cases consists of those in which the policy contains no warranty or exception material to

be considered, and where, therefore, the only question is whether upon the facts it can be said that the loss was covered by the contract. To this class of case the language of Willes J. in *Grill* v. *General Iron Screw Collier Co.*, (1866) L. R. 1 C. P. 600, 611, directly applies. He says: 'A policy of insurance is an absolute contract to indemnify for loss by perils of the sea, and it is only necessary to see whether the loss comes within the terms of the contract and is caused by perils of the sea: *the fact that the loss is partly caused by things not distinctly perils of the sea, does not prevent its coming within the contract.*'" (Emphasis added.)

Cf. Board of Trade v. *Hain S. S. Co.*, (1929) A. C. 534, 539; *Dudgeon* v. *Pembroke*, (1877) 2 App. Cas. 284, 297; followed in *Frangos and Others* v. *Sun Insurance Office, Ltd.*, (1934) 49 Ll. L. Rep. 354, 359; *Reischer* v. *Borwick*, (1894) 2 K. B. 548, 551; *Ashworth* v. *General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation*, (1955) Ir. R. 268, 300 (dissent on other grounds).

The insurance policies (R. 71, 74) cover perils "* * * of the Seas, Fire, * * * and all other like Perils, Losses, and Misfortunes that have or shall come to the Hurt, Detriment or Damage of the said Vessel, etc., or any part thereof: * * *." By reason of there necessarily having been some form of "ignition" prior to the explosion, there was additional coverage under the "Fire" and/or "like Perils" coverage. *West India Telegraph Company* v. *Home and Colonial Insurance Company*, (1880) 6 Q. B. Div. 51; *Thames and Mersey Insurance Company* v. *Hamilton Fraser & Co.*, (1887) 12 App. Cas. 484, 495 ("operative words"), 500 ("fire" may be extended to similar risks by the general words); *cf. Southport Fisheries* v. *Saskatchewan Gov. Ins. Office*, 161 F. Supp. 81 (D. C. N. C., 1958); *Feinberg* v. *Insurance Company of North America*, 260 F. 2d 523 (1st Cir., 1958). Any ambiguities as to the extent of coverage under the contracts are, in any event, to be resolved in favor of assureds.

II

The Court of Appeals decision upholding the District Court's denial of jury trial sanctions a departure from the accepted and usual course of judicial proceedings.

Most of the facts concerning petitioners' strivings for jury trial are set out in the Court of Appeals' opinion as modified (Op. 25a-30a). The Court of Appeals erred, however, in considering that the right to jury trial in the Superior Court for the State of Washington had not been perfected in the *Symes* case before it was removed on consent and consolidated with the *Atlas* case in the federal District Court. The affidavit of the Honorable Bertil E. Johnson, acting judge of the Superior Court of the State of Washington (in and for Pierce County), part of the supplemental record filed with the Court of Appeals, clearly states that such right was perfected. Plaintiffs' Note of Issue demanding jury trial was indeed *filed* in the Superior Court—but mistakenly under the caption of the *Atlas* case which was then in the Federal District Court. Respondents' counsel recognized the oversight as "inadvertence" and the oversight was cured in open court. (See Transcript of Proceedings attached to Judge Bertil's affidavit sworn to on April 5, 1962.)

Where the pleadings in a State court expressly demand a jury to try the issues, and there is no express waiver of the right so demanded, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not require another demand in the court to which the proceeding is removed. *Wardrep* v. *New York Life Ins. Co.*, 1 F. R. D. 175 (D. C. Penn., 1940). *Cf. Angel* v. *McLellan Stores Co.*, 27 F. Supp. 893 (D. C. Tenn. 1939). In *Rehrer* v. *Service Trucking Co.*, 15 F. R. D. 113 (D. C. Del., 1953), decided under Rule 81(c) of the Fed. Rules Civ. Proc., 28 U. S. C. A., the court stated at page 113:

> "Plaintiffs clearly demonstrated a desire for trial by jury. This they did by an affirmative demand for it.

> not by silence in the state court. No plausible reason is apparent to me why a second request is necessary or why a waiver of jury trial should be imputed after removal to a party who positively demanded it just prior to removal. Barron and Holtzoff, Federal Practice and Procedure, 1952 Supp., Sec. 132, p. 75."

The right of jury trial in civil cases at common law is a basic and fundamental feature of our system of federal jurisprudence which is protected by the Seventh Amendment. A right so fundamental and sacred to the citizen, whether guaranteed by the Constitution or provided by statute, should be jealously guarded by the courts. *Jacob* v. *City of New York*, 315 U. S. 752, 752-753 (1941). This Court has long emphasized the importance of the jury trial. *Beacon Theatres* v. *Westover*, 359 U. S. 500 (1959) (Footnote 18). *Cf. Rogers* v. *Missouri P. R. Co.*, 352 U. S. 500, 509 (1917); *Dairy Queen* v. *Wood*, 369 U. S. 469 (1962). This Court should now again exercise its power of supervision of the Federal courts to consider petitioners' argument under Rule 81(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in spite of its having been raised for the first time on the appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. As Mr. Justice Black said in *Hormel* v. *Helvering*, 312 U. S. 552 (1941), at page 557:

> "There may always be exceptional cases or particular circumstances which will prompt a reviewing or appellate court, where injustice might otherwise result, to consider questions of law which were neither passed upon by the court or administrative agency below: See Blair v. Oesterlein Mach. Co., 275 U. S. 220, 225, 72 L. ed. 249, 252, 48 S. Ct. 87."

Cf. Shokuzan Shimabukuru v. *Higeyoshi Nagayama*, 140 F. 2d 13, 15 (D. C. Cir., 1944). A denial of jury trial, as it affects a constitutional right, should not be precluded from review at this or any stage of litigation.

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Conclusion

There have been surprisingly few cases litigated since World War I where substantive questions of marine insurance law were put in issue and decided. *Gilmore & Black, The Law of Admiralty*, 51 (1957). The PACIFIC QUEEN cases, commenced by petitioners, contain a broad spectrum of issues bearing on some of the most significant sections of the *Marine Insurance Act*, 1906, and upon landmark cases from which English marine insurance law and usage have been derived. The Court of Appeals decision, unsettling in so many ways, has put into doubt the value of thousands of outstanding marine insurance policies which are framed around the same time-tested language as contained in the PACIFIC QUEEN policies. If the Court of Appeals decision stands, insurance companies may employ its confused and erroneous principles to contest types of claims which, for centuries, have been honored, with a resultant increase in litigation in the Anglo-American marine insurance field. Also, the international prestige of American jurisprudence may well suffer if the Court of Appeals decision is permitted to unsettle the law of another leading maritime nation.

There are special and important reasons for the granting of a writ of certiorari and petitioners respectfully pray that such writ be issued.

Respectfully submitted.

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Opinion of United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Before:

POPE, BARNES and HAMLEY, *Circuit Judges*.

BARNES, *Circuit Judge*:

This is a consolidated appeal taken after trial in the United States District Court in which judgment was entered for appellee insurance companies holding them exonerated from liability on certain contracts of insurance. Appeal No. 17,460 was formerly No. 2348 in the district court and was originally filed in the Superior Court for the State of Washington from which it was removed to the district court only to be remanded back to the State court. Appeal No. 17,461 was formerly No. 2543 in the district court; it was originally filed in the Superior Court for the State of Washington from which it was removed to the district court and a motion to remand was denied. After removal of No. 17,461 to the district court, appellants stipulated the then State court case could be retransferred to the Federal court, and moved to consolidate No. 2348 with No. 2543. The motion was granted and the two cases consolidated for trial. Diversity of citizenship existing, and an amount in controversy exceeding $10,000, the district court had jurisdiction to hear the consolidated cases under the provisions of Sections 1332 and 1441(a) of Title 28, United States Code.

Judgment for appellees in both cases was entered March 23, 1961. Timely notice of appeal was filed. This court has jurisdiction to review the judgment entered below under the provisions of Sections 1291 and 1294(1) of Title 28, United States Code.

Both actions were brought by appellants to recover from appellee insurance underwriters on contracts for marine insurance for loss and damage resulting from the total constructive loss of appellants' diesel powered fishing vessel, the

Pacific Queen, owned by Pacific Queen Fisheries, a partnership.[1]

The Pacific Queen was built in 1943 for the Navy. The vessel had a wooden hull and structure with steel decks and deckhouse; she was 988 gross tons, 672 net tons, 173 feet in length, 37 feet in width, 18.8 feet in depth, and propelled by 1600 HP twin-screw diesel engines. Built for Navy salvage operations, she had been outfitted with two 1500 gallon gasoline tanks which were equipped with "a very safe" aqua or hydraulic system which dispensed gasoline by injecting water through interior piping into the tanks (thus forcing the gasoline of lighter specific gravity to rise) thereby transferring the gasoline through permanent piping to pumps and discharge valves, *located above deck*.

In 1948 the Pacific Queen was bought as war surplus by an individual who resold her to a corporation then controlled by appellant Breskovich. The corporation then sold the vessel to appellants, or their predecessors in interest.

The Pacific Queen became a total constructive loss on September 17, 1957 because of a violent explosion. Immediately thereafter, in the regular course of its official duties, the Coast Guard made a full investigation. The transcript of the Coast Guard's hearing, its detailed findings and conclusions, recommendations and official action, were offered into evidence by appellants and admitted *without objection*. The district court found the Coast Guard's findings and conclusions to be true and incorporated them by reference and adopted them into its own findings of fact.

Beginning in 1950, appellants operated the Pacific Queen between Puget Sound and Bristol Bay, Alaska, as a refrigerated vessel to freeze and transport catches of salmon from Alaska to ports on Puget Sound. In 1951 regulations which

[1] Hereinafter the term "appellants" will be used to describe all plaintiffs below (and appellants here) unless some special interest or issue requires a specific name to be used. Appellees (all underwriters of marine insurance for the Pacific Queen, defendants below) will be referred to as "appellees" unless a more specific designation is required.

prior thereto had prohibited power-driven fishing boats in Bristol Bay, as a fish conservation measure, were relaxed and power boats (*e.g.*, gillnetters) up to thirty-two feet in length were permitted. Many of the gillnetters are powered by gasoline; others are powered by diesel fuel. Both types of fuel may be obtained from various sources in Alaska.

During the years beginning 1950, appellants insured the vessel with various insurance companies, including some but not all of the respective appellees which insured her in 1954.

On various occasions between 1950 and 1957, before each year's fishing season began, appellants, through a broker,[2] requested that the vessel be surveyed by the Board of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco, or by United States Salvage Association. On other occasions during this period appellants requested through a broker, other well recognized and competent surveyors to survey the vessel. This was done in 1950 by Alexander Gow, Inc., and in 1953 by Captain Adrian Raynaud, but neither surveyor reported the existence of any gasoline or gasoline tank capacity aboard the Pacific Queen.[3]

On or about May 3, 1955, Hansen & Rowland, acting as broker for appellants, requested United States Salvage Association to make a condition survey of the Pacific Queen. One Edward Marquat, an experienced surveyor, since deceased, was assigned to the task. He made an exceptionally careful and meticulous survey. His condition report (six single-spaced pages) is dated May 13, 1955. With respect to gasoline, his report read in full text:

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[2] Appellants selected, from time to time, different brokers. See Finding of Fact VIII-D, R. 256.

[3] In 1949, pursuant to Coast Guard orders when the vessel was chartered to carry cargo to Hawaii, the Navy's aqua system for transporting and dispensing gasoline from the vessel's two aft gasoline tanks was blanked off and disconnected, and the two tanks were filled with water.

"Fuel and Water Capacities:

Fuel	49,000 gallons
Water	14,000 "
Gas	3,000 "

(Gasoline tanks under deck aft, proper filling lines and vents to atmosphere)."

The court found Pacific Queen Fisheries knew Marquat's report was the only information appellees had concerning gasoline "because, in 1956, appellant John Vilicich, one of the active partners [experienced in the marine insurance business] asked for and received a copy of the report."

The Pacific Queen did not engage in Alaskan operations in 1956. She remained in lay-up status. On about May 2, 1957, Hansen & Rowland, again acting as appellants' broker, requested United States Salvage Association to make a condition survey. Appellants particularly requested a survey of two newly purchased gillnetters and incidentally, of the Pacific Queen. J. E. Elkins, an experienced surveyor, made the survey. Elkins' only other survey of this vessel was made in 1949—at which time no gasoline was being carried by the vessel. His report (Exs. 359, 360), dated May 2, 1957, like those of Gow's (in 1950) and Raynaud's (in 1953), made no reference to gasoline tank capacity, nor to any bulk gasoline carried aboard the vessel. Elkins reported the vessel to be a mothership for gas-powered gillnetters. (Finding of Fact VIII. J., R. 258-259) [1]

At the time of the explosion on September 17, 1957, the gasoline tank capacity of the Pacific Queen had been increased from 3,000 to 8,000 gallons. This increased gasoline capacity was accomplished by filling two tanks, theretofore

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[1] Until 1951, the small "gill net" fishing boats used in Bristol Bay, Alaska fishing were powered by sail and oars. In 1951, power boats up to thirty-two feet in length were permitted to fish there under regulations of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Gasoline for use on such boats is obtainable in Alaska from various sources, "including tank vessels, scows, barges and shore facilities." (Finding VIII B, R. p. 255.)

used for diesel fuel, with 5,000 gallons of gasoline. Gasoline is a far more hazardous commodity than diesel oil to use or transport. Appellants inserted below deck exposed gasoline discharge valves into fittings that had been designed and used for insertion of permanently secured drainage plugs. These valve replacements were located in or near a passageway where ship's equipment, fishing gear and personnel frequently passed.

These alterations for discharging gasoline adapted by the Pacific Queen were apparently unique to her. Such a system or method of handling and discharging gasoline was not in common usage. It was not used on other vessels in which some of the Pacific Queen's owners had, and have, an interest. There was no positive evidence the same method had ever been used on other vessels.

The appellants accomplished this change in the vessel's gasoline tank capacity (*i.e.*, the increase of gasoline tank capacity from 3,000 to 8,000 gallons by means of the above described alterations) at some date subsequent to the May 13, 1955 Marquat condition survey, and prior to the attachment of insurance on May 24, 1957.

On May 27, 1957, the Pacific Queen departed from Seattle and proceeded to Alaskan water to engage in fishing. She commenced her adventure with the increased gasoline tank capacity and the changed method of piping, valving and internal method of discharge of gasoline above known to her owners and manager.

After the Pacific Queen returned from Alaska, she shifted to various Puget Sound docks, and with her increased gasoline tank capacity and changed method of piping, valving and internal method of discharge of gasoline as hereinabove described, and with the knowledge of her owners and manager, she then was sent from Seattle to Friday Harbor.

While the Pacific Queen was at Friday Harbor, she had on board approximately 2,000 gallons of gasoline. On September 9, 1957, while at Friday Harbor, 500 to 600 gallons of gasoline were spilled from one of the vessel's tanks in

its hold into the interior of the vessel. While appellants minimized the seriousness of this spillage, the court below believed it was a serious incident. It created great hazards to the ship, life and property. Gasoline from the spillage soaked and impregnated large parts of the wooden hull and structure of the vessel. It was not a sudden spill. It began early in the evening preceding its discovery at 4:00 a.m. by the cook. It lasted at least six hours, probably longer. In the course of the spillage, liquid gasoline and gasoline fumes permeated the lower after portion of the vessel.

The spillage was reported to one of the appellant-owners and manager of the vessel (appellant Mardesich) while he was in Friday Harbor on September 9, 1957. He inspected the vessel but gave no specific orders as to the methods to be used in cleaning her. He did not order any chemical tests to be made to determine if she was gas-free; he did not order the plugging-up of the valves on the other gasoline tanks to prevent similar spills. Nor did he order the discharge of the remaining gasoline from the other tanks.

In an attempt to purge the vessel of gasoline, cold water, sprayed through a hose, was used to wash down the area. After removal of all visible traces of gasoline, the area was again washed down with cold water, and a bilge cleaning solvent was used in an attempt to remove the gasoline from the wooden hull. Portable blowers were used to remove gasoline fumes from the vessel. Then, on the evening of September 10, 1957, the vessel's ventilation blowers were placed into operation to free the vessel from gasoline fumes.

The district court—basing its findings on expert testimony—found the steps taken to purge the vessel of gasoline and gasoline fumes to be inadequate. After the Friday Harbor spill and with the knowledge of the vessel's owners and manager, a plug was put into the valve on *one* of the tanks but no precautions were taken to prevent similar spills from the remaining three tanks. The court found: "All of the plaintiffs' [appellants'] witnesses, including two of the part-owners, who were experienced in the handling of gasoline,

agreed that this was a serious want of due diligence." All of appellees' witnesses agreed that it was extraordinarily hazardous to permit a vessel to be in such condition, or to send the vessel to sea in such a condition, and that it might take a period of weeks before the vessel was sufficiently gas free to operate with safety.

On the evening of September 11, 1957, the Pacific Queen departed from Friday Harbor and proceeded to Seattle. On September 15, 1957, she left Seattle and proceeded to Tacoma where she tied up at "Old Town Dock" at approximately 4:35 p.m.

At approximately 4:00 a.m. on the morning of September 17, 1957, a violent explosion occurred on board the Pacific Queen. Portions of the vessel were hurled several hundred yards away, plate glass windows in the surrounding area were broken, and a distinct blast from the explosion was felt some two miles distant. Witnesses living a few hundred feet from the explosion, who were immediately awakened and could observe it, reported a ball of orange fire and a black smoke present at the time of the explosion—color characteristics consistent only with an explosion of gasoline vapor origin.

The explosion ripped open the vessel's hull planking on the port after side of the engineroom at the turn of the bilge and a large section of the vessel's main deck aft of the superstructure (together with brine tanks, hatches manhole covers, a gillnet boat, etc.) was blown off, and into the water. A fire *followed*, and the Pacific Queen ultimately settled on the bottom with a ten degree list to the starboard. The source of the explosion's ignition is unknown. It could have been a spark from a cigarette, or a match, or an electric contact, or other accidental source. But, by an "overwhelming preponderance of the evidence," the district court found the constructive total loss of the Pacific Queen was the result of a gasoline explosion.

The district court, sitting without a jury, held appellees free from liability on contracts for insurance against loss

on the Pacific Queen—in the total amount of $325,000—which each of the appellees, in varying amounts, had underwritten. From a judgment so holding, appellants take this appeal.

Appellants' opening brief does not specify wherein the findings of fact and conclusions of law are alleged to be erroneous.[5] After having this discrepancy pointed up by appellees in their answering brief, appellants set forth their forty-eight specifications of error in the appendix to their reply brief. Of these, Numbers 1, 3, 14 and 47 have been waived or abandoned.

The principal questions here presented by the forty-four errors specified are whether the district court was clearly erroneous in finding:

1. That appellants concealed from appellees circumstances material to the risk.

2. That the Pacific Queen was, with the privity of appellants, sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition.

3. That the loss and damage to the Pacific Queen resulted from a want of due diligence by the vessel's appellant-owners.

4. That appellants breached their implied warranty that the Pacific Queen's adventure was a lawful one and that, so far as appellants were able to control the matter, the adventure was to be carried out in a lawful manner.

Collateral questions presented are whether the district court was clearly erroneous in holding:

5. That a contractual time bar raised by one appellee was an effective bar to appellants' action.

6. That certain appellants were partners in the Pacific Queen Fisheries.

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[5] As is required by Rule 18(2)(d) of this court, and which this court has repeatedly held must be observed. *E.g., Thys Co.* v. *Anglo California National Bank*, 1955, 219 F. 2d 131.

7. That appellants had not perfected their right to jury trial.

Several preliminary observations should be made. First, in accordance with the intent of the parties as set forth in the certificate of insurance covering the hull,[6] as stipulated by both parties on brief, and as found and held by the district court,[7] English Law and usage governs the substantive law of the instant case. Secondly, it is not incumbent upon *appellees* to persuade this court that the district court's findings of fact are correct; on the contrary, the *appellants* must persuade this court that the district court's findings of fact are, as specified by appellants, clearly erroneous.[8] Third, this court must view the evidence in the light most favorable to the party who prevailed below; such a party must be given the benefit of all inferences that may reasonably be drawn from the evidence. The findings of the trial court sitting without a jury must be accepted unless they are clearly erroneous; they cannot be upset if they are supported by substantial evidence.[9]

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[6] Which reads:

> "(c) Warranted to be subject to English Law and usage as to liability for and settlement of any and all claims."

[7] R. 224-226, 279-280.

[8] Appellants' misconception is implied in the following language at page 5 of their reply brief:

> "[Appellees], instead of endeavoring to persuade this Court that *Pacific Queen's* explosion was fueled by gasoline, have merely adopted the Findings of Fact of the District Court on this and all factual questions in the case . . . Apparently they are under the mistaken impression that Fed. R. Civ. P. No. 52 (a) will pull the laboring oar for them . . ."

[9] *Sherman* v. *Lawless*, 9 Cir., 1962, 298 F.2d 899. See also, *Hudson* v. *Wylie*, 9 Cir. 1957, 242 F.2d 435; *cert. den.* 355 U.S. 828; *Lewis Food Co. of Cal.* v. *Milwaukee Insurance Co.*, 9 Cir. 1958, 257 F.2d 525; *Stacher* v. *United States*, 9 Cir. 1958, 258 F.2d 112, *cert. den.* 358 U.S. 907.

I

DID APPELLANTS CONCEAL CIRCUMSTANCES MATERIAL TO THE RISK?

Was the district court clearly erroneous in finding—and holding accordingly—that the insurance was void *ab initio* because appellants failed to disclose material increases in the risk caused by the increased gasoline carrying capacity of the Pacific Queen and the extra-hazardous method of carriage of that increased amount of gasoline? We hold it was not.

The district court made careful and voluminous findings.[10]

The Marine Insurance Act, 1906,[11] in part here pertinent, provides:

> "17. A contract of marine insurance is a contract based upon the utmost good faith, and, if the utmost good faith be not observed by either party, the contract may be avoided by the other party.
>
> * * *
>
> "18.—(1) . . . the assured must disclose to the insurer, before the contract is concluded, every material circumstance which is known to the assured, and the assured is deemed to know every circumstance which, in the ordinary course of business, ought to be known by him. If the assured fails to make such disclosure, the insurer may avoid the contract.
>
> "(2) Every circumstance is material which would influence the judgment of a prudent insurer in fixing the premium, or determining whether he will take the risk."

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[10] * * *

[11] 6Edw. 7, C. 41. This Act is referred to in appellees' brief as appearing in 2 Arnould, Marine Insurance (1954) 1180 ff. Arnould's 15th Edition (1961) takes the new title of "British Shipping Laws—Vols. 9 & 10." The Marine Insurance Act, 1906, appears at 1261 ff.

Appellants contend that they were not under a duty to disclose the increased gasoline tank capacity of their vessel, or the below-deck alterations made to dispense gasoline because (a) appellees must be presumed to have had notice of the changes, even though they might not have had actual notice, and (b) appellees waived disclosure of the changes.

Section 18(3) of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, provides the following exceptions to the duty to disclose:

> "In the absence of inquiry the following circumstances need not be disclosed, namely:
>
> * * *
>
> "(b) Any circumstance which is known or presumed to be known to the insurer. The insurer is presumed to know matters of common notoriety or knowledge, and matters which an insurer in the ordinary course of his business, as such, ought to know;
>
> "(c) Any circumstances as to which information is waived by the insurer. . . ."

These exceptions to the duty of disclosure are discussed in 2 Arnould on Marine Insurance, 15th Ed. (1961), §§ 621-631. After quoting the stilted language of Lord Mansfield in *Carter* v. *Boehm*, (1766) 3 Burr. 1905, it is there said, on the question of what is presumed to be known to the insurer, that:

> "[A]n insurer is presumed to know that it is impossible to make a floating dry-dock as seaworthy as an ordinary ocean-going craft, and is put on inquiry, if he admits seaworthiness as to the means adopted to strengthen it.
>
> "A knowledge of the political state of the world, of the allegiance of particular countries, of their standing mercantile regulations, of the risk and embarrassment affecting the course of trade contemplated by the insurance, must all necessarily be imputed to the Underwriter, and therefore, need not be disclosed by the assured. . . ." (Arnould, *supra*, § 622.)

And, on the question of what ought to be known to an insurer, Arnould states:

> "On the principle that the assured need not disclose what the Underwriter ought to know, it has been decided in several cases that facts comprised in the general usages of the trade need not be communicated to the Underwriter; . . . But to dispense with communication of anything done according to usage, *such usage must be generally and universally known to all engaged in the trade.*" (Arnould, *supra*, § 623.) (Emphasis added.) Citing *Tennant* v. *Henderson*, (1813) 1 Dow 324.

The Marine Insurance Act, 1906, Section 18 provides with respect to disclosure:

> "* * * *
>
> "(4) Whether any particular circumstance, which is not disclosed, be material or not is, in each case, a question of fact."

The district court here found as a fact (a fact appellants seemingly do not controvert) that the altered method of handling gasoline was not a usage "generally and universally known to all engaged in the trade," but, on the contrary, found that it was unique—it was "not in common usage, but was exclusive to the Pacific Queen." Elkins, when making his 1957 survey, had only known the Pacific Queen as a vessel not carrying gasoline. Elkins reported her to be a mothership for gas-operated gillnetters. But, as the district court found, this gave no notice that the Pacific Queen was carrying bulk gasoline, because gasoline and other types of fuel were, and are, available from various sources in Alaska other than the mothership. Appellants' reliance on the exception to require disclosure based upon usage is misplaced.

As to the exception to the duty of disclosure based on waiver, Arnould states:

> "It was . . . held by the Court of Appeals [in *Mann, MacNeal & Steeves* v. *Capital & Counties Ins. Co.*] that information that the cargo was of a hazardous character had been waived. Bankes L.J. said that an Underwriter waives any information in relation to what may be fairly described as a parcel or ordinary cargo of lawful merchandise, and also, quoting Lord Esher M.R. in *Asfar* v. *Blundell* that the rule *is satisfied if the assured discloses sufficient to call the attention of the Underwriters so that they can see if they require further information, they ought to ask for it. . . .*" (Arnould, *supra*, § 631.) (Emphasis added.)

And further:

> "Atkins, L.J. with whose judgment on this point Younger, L.J. agreed, said that included in the risk an Underwriter takes is the risk that there is an already concluded engagement for hazardous cargo, just as there is the countervailing possibility he runs no risk of a hazardous cargo at all, by reason of an absolutely safe cargo having been agreed." (*Id.*)

Appellants place great reliance upon *Mann, MacNeal & Steeves* v. *Capital & Counties Ins. Co.* (1921) 2 KB 300 the case cited and discussed by Arnould in § 631, *supra*. In *Mann* no absolute rule as to disclosure was established. The disclosure of the nature of the cargo (even when it is iron drums of gasoline, as it was there) is waived where there is proof the cargo "is an ordinary and common form of merchandise" (p. 306) which can be carried as safely as the common run of cargo. "The question whether disclosure must be made or not is one of degree, depending upon the circumstances of each particular case" (307). But appellants do not explain the above italicized language in the quotation from Arnould, *supra*, § 631. Further the failure to disclose here relates to a *part of the ship*—the altered method of handling gasoline; not to the *cargo* itself.

Appellants next contend that appellees waived disclosure of the increased gasoline tank capacity and the altered methods of gasoline discharge because surveys had been made. But the district court found that appellants did not disclose the altered method of handling gasoline to the surveyors; that the surveyors did not know of these alterations; that the altered methods were exclusive to the Pacific Queen; that they were not common usage; and that to make such alterations was a simple job that would take two men thirty minutes to perform. Further, the district court found that the alterations were not observable by reasonable inspection.

Appellants were under a duty to advise the surveyors of alterations requiring especial examination. This court has previously so held. In *States Steamship Company* v. *United States*, 1958, 259 F. 2d 458 at 469, we said:

> "Marine Surveyor Wilson who then inspected the ship for the American Bureau of Shipping testified that he received no special information concerning the vessel prior to his survey and he knew nothing outstanding against it. The record warranted the court's evident conclusion that an inspection of a vessel known to have a history of crack sensitiveness and particularly a history of a Class I fracture, should be much more careful and elaborate than this vessel ever had. The company itself was chargeable with knowledge of the pending inspection and yet it failed through Vallet or Brenneke [its port engineer, and its manager, respectively] or any other person to inform the inspectors of these special conditions attending the ship. In the words used in The Silver Palm [9 Cir., 94 F.2d 776], all these circumstances made the more imperative the obligation of the owner and operator to advise of the special circumstances calling for a special inspection and a more thorough one than had been made." [12]

[12] And see cases we cited in that decision: *The Silver Palm*, 9 Cir., 94 F.2d 776; *Spencer Kellog & Sons* v. *Hicks*, 285 U.S. 502.

That appellants were here under a duty to disclose is also shown in the holding of the British case of *The Assunzione*, (1956) 2 Lloyd's List Law Rep. 468, where, at 486, Mr. Justice Willmer (in quoting the expert Rolland and in discussing the value of a survey made by the owners themselves, and not one made by a classification surveyor) said:

> "A prudent shipowner has a superintendent whose duty it is in the first instance to go around the vessel finding out the defects, and pointing them out to the Classification Surveyor. A superintendent does not rely on the Classification Surveyor to point out the defects—at least it is not good practice to do so. The superintendent and the Classification Surveyor should inspect together and deliberate on what should be done."

Appellants contend, in their reply brief, that the changes made on the Pacific Queen must have, or should have, been apparent to Elkins. We cannot agree. As mentioned above, because the vessel was engaged in Bristol Bay operations did not mean it *had* to be carrying gasoline. And appellants' gesture of requesting a survey on an unlighted dead vessel, which survey was related to a request to look at two new gillnetters, and only incidentally, to "look over" the vessel; plus (a) appellants' failure to point out hazards or (b) advise Elkins of intended changes, and (c) their failure to have one of the owners who was chief engineer identify himself, and (d) the failure to inform their brokers of present or intended changes, do not meet the good faith and fair disclosure requirements of the Marine Insurance Act. Nor can it lead us to believe that the district court was clearly erroneous in finding that the changes were *not* necessarily apparent to Elkins.

Appellants further contend, in their reply brief, that the quantity of gasoline carried was immaterial from a risk standpoint because only two gallons of gasoline (according

to appellees' expert) was all that was needed to fuel an explosion of the magnitude of that which destroyed the Pacific Queen. The quantity carried may or may not be material; the manner in which the gasoline was carried and handled is material. If only two gallons of gasoline were needed to do that which was done, then an extra-hazardous system such as was here adopted by appellants makes the change all the more material; and indicates the correctness and reasonableness of the district court's finding that appellees would not have insured the vessel if appellants or their brokers (who were also kept in the dark) had disclosed all or any of the several material increases in the risk.

Appellants also contend many of the cases cited by appellees on this issue are inapposite. But they still rely on the *Mann* case, *supra*, and make no reply to Arnould's commentaries, nor to the language of the Marine Insurance Act itself.

Viewing the evidence as this court must, we agree with the district court's holding that the insurance never attached and was void *ab initio* for failure to disclose material increases in the risk. Such a holding was not clearly erroneous; nor was it without substantial evidence in the record to support it.

II

WAS THE PACIFIC QUEEN, WITH THE PRIVITY OF APPELLANTS, SENT TO SEA IN AN UNSEAWORTHY CONDITION?

The next question is whether the district court's finding that the Pacific Queen, with the privity of appellant-owners, was sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition is clear error. Again, we cannot hold the district court's finding was clearly erroneous.[13]

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[13] * * *

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[13] * * *

The correct and most concise statement of what is meant by "privity" is set forth in *M. Thomas & Son Shipping Co. v. The London & Provincial Mar. Ins. Co.*, (1914) 30 T.L.R. 595 (C.A.). There, at page 596, the court said:

> "[W]ords in s. 39, subs 5, of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, 'Where with the privity of the assured a ship is sent to sea in an unseaworthy state,' meant where 'the owner was privy to the state of things which in fact rendered the ship unseaworthy.'"

A reading of the facts as found by the district court clearly indicates that, within this definition, each time the Pacific Queen was sent to sea from and after May 24, 1957, until her loss, she was in an unseaworthy state, to the knowledge and in the privity of the assured owner. This because of the knowledge of its condition resting in one or more of the partners, and the manager (also a partner). The facts substantiate the district court's finding that said unseaworthiness was a proximate cause of the vessel's loss.

III

DID THE LOSS AND DAMAGE TO THE PACIFIC QUEEN RESULT FROM WANT OF DUE DILIGENCE BY APPELLANTS?

Appellants contend the district court erred in holding that they were precluded from recovering the loss of the Pacific Queen under the broader coverage of the Inchmaree clause contained in the contract of insurance here in issue.

Appellants represent that the Inchmaree clause was introduced to extend or broaden coverage and liability of underwriters; that the Inchmaree clause broadens coverage to include a variety of risks not embraced in the general perils

of the sea clause. Appellees do not quarrel with this opinion.[16]

The Inchmaree clause reads:

> "This insurance also specially to cover (subject to the free of average warranty) loss of or damage to hull or machinery directly caused by the following:—
>
> Accidents in loading, discharging or handling cargo, or in bunkering or in taking in fuel.
>
> Explosions on shipboard or elsewhere.
>
> Bursting of boilers, breakage of shafts or any latent defect in the machinery or hull (excluding, however, the cost and expense of repairing or renewing the defective part).
>
> Negligence of Master, Mariners, Engineers or Pilots.
>
> [P]rovided such loss or damage has not resulted from want of due diligence by the Owners of the Vessel, or any of them, or by the Managers.
>
> Masters, Mates, Engineers, Pilot or Crew not to be considered as part owners within the meaning of this clause should they hold shares in the vessel."

Appellants assume, *arguendo*, on this issue that they were negligent. But, they contend, the Inchmaree clause includes this risk and, therefore, appellees should be liable for the loss and damage to the Pacific Queen. The cases here cited by appellants largely relate to other circumstances and law; *e.g.*, most deal with section 39(5) unseaworthiness questions.

On this issue the district court found the loss was caused by a gasoline explosion.[17]

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[16] An example of the broader coverage is shown in the instant case. The general perils clause does include "fire" but does not include "explosion." Arnould, *supra*, § 819, citing *Thames & Mersey Mar. Ins. Co. v. Hamilton*, [1887] 12 App. Cas. 484. But the Inchmaree clause, by its very terms, includes loss by "explosion." Hence, appellants urge coverage under the Inchmaree clause.

[17] * * *

Appellants contend that the district court's finding that the loss of the Pacific Queen was due to a gasoline explosion was clearly erroneous. With this contention we cannot agree. A logical inference from the facts before the trial court clearly allows such a conclusion.[18]

The district court's findings of want of due diligence on the part of appellant-owners, and of a gasoline explosion are neither clearly erroneous, nor without substantial evidence to support them, seems clear. As stated by Arnould, *supra*, at page 764 (cited by appellants in their reply brief):

> "It is clear that a loss may be proximately caused by more than one peril, that is by a combination of causes, and in this event the loss can be properly attributed to any one of such causes."

We believe, therefore, it was proper for the district court to attribute the Pacific Queen's loss to a gasoline explosion, even if another peril or combination of perils *could* have been a concurrent cause.

IV

DID APPELLANTS BREACH THE IMPLIED WARRANTY THAT THE ADVENTURE WOULD BE LAWFUL AND, TO THE EXTENT THEY COULD CONTROL THE MATTER, THAT THE ADVENTURE WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN A LAWFUL MANNER?

The district court found appellants guilty of such a breach.[19]

The district court concluded (a) that the Tanker Act was applicable, (b) that the Pacific Queen's gasoline was supplied and used by others, and (c) that the gasoline trans-

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[18] We need only refer to the report in evidence, and the testimony of witnesses, that there was present at the moment of the explosion a large ball of orange fire, and of black smoke; characteristics consistent only with an explosion of gasoline vapor origin. And not consistent, as conceded by appellants' expert, with an explosion of ammonia origin (Finding of Fact XII, *supra*).

[19] * * *

ported by the Pacific Queen was not "fuel or stores", but was "cargo." The district court further concluded that such violation of the Tanker Act constituted negligence or want of due care and diligence on the part of the vessel's owners (independent of other findings of negligence and want of due diligence) but that this violation was not of such a character as to render the entire venture or voyage an illegal one. The court concluded that the hauling of the gasoline in bulk for the use described above was not the primary purpose of the voyage but merely an incident thereof.

We find the district court's findings and conclusions are detailed and well reasoned, but even were we to assume they were erroneous on this issue alone and were we to hold that appellants had not violated the Tanker Act[20] because its application as to them was vague and uncertain, this would not require a reversal of the case. With this in mind, we state the following:

We feel there exists a question, under the circumstances here presented, whether or not the bulk gasoline carried by the Pacific Queen could come within the term "fuel or stores." More importantly, other fishing vessels, performing a similar role as that played by the Pacific Queen, are (or very shortly will be) engaged in fishing adventures. Some carry bulk gasoline for the same purposes as those of the Pacific Queen. Many are insured, either by appellees or other underwriters. If a loss occurred, this case would be an important and perhaps controlling precedent. The Commandant of the Coast Guard said:

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[20] The Tanker Act (46 U.S.C. § 391a), in pertinent part, reads:

"All vessels, regardless of tonnage, size, or manner of propulsion, and whether self-propelled or not, and whether carrying freight or passengers for hire or not, that shall have on board any inflammable or combustible liquid cargo in bulk, . . . shall be considered steam vessels for the purposes of title 52 of the Revised Statutes and shall be subject to the provisions thereof; *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to vessels having on board only inflammable or combustible liquid for use as fuel or stores. . . ."

"3. Since full compliance with either the regulations under the Tanker Act or the Dangerous Cargo Act, neither of which regulations were designed to cover this type of vessel and operation, which is presumably fishing, is impossible, or impracticable of accomplishment and further, since it is possible that the legal responsibilities of the owners of this type of vessel are not sufficiently clear, the file in this case will be referred to the Merchant Marine Council for study and action towards issuing such clarifying regulations as may be indicated."

Therefore, we prefer not to make an unnecessary decision on a non-controlling issue until the Merchant Marine Council (an expert body which can hold hearings and consider all ramifications of the question) has determined by regulation whether vessels of the Pacific Queen's type and operation should or should not be within the purview of the Tanker and Dangerous Cargo Acts.

V

COLLATERAL QUESTIONS.

A. Did the contractual limitation of action provision in the Buffalo Insurance Company policy bar appellants' action against Buffalo Insurance Company? We hold it did.

Conclusion of Law XI reads:

> "The Liability of defendant, Buffalo Insurance Company, is in any event barred by the time of suit clause.
>
> The policy of defendant, Buffalo Insurance Company (Pl. Ex. 1) provides in part:
>
> 'No suit or action on this Policy for the recovery of any claim shall be sustainable in any Court * * * unless commenced within *twelve months*

> next after the calendar date of *the happening of the physical loss* or damage out of which the said claim arose * * *." [Emphasis added by the trial judge.]

Since suit was not brought within one year, this claim is procedurally barred.

RCW 48.12.200 (1) (3)

Heffner v. Great American Ins. Co., 126 Wash. 390; 218 Pac. 206 (1923).

Hasset v. Penn. Fire Ins. Co., 150 Wash. 502, 273 Pac. 145 (1929)."

In reply to the authorities relied upon by the court, and the brief, and in an attempt to show error in the district court, appellants, at page 15 of their reply brief state:

> "Insurers have cited no English authority in the point and, therefore, *Phoenix Ins. Co. of Hartford* v. *De Monchy*, (1929) 45 T.L.R. 543, 35 Com.Cas. 67, quoted at page 51 of [appellants'] main brief, must be deemed conclusive and the Buffalo time bar provision must be disregarded."

Appellants rely heavily upon the *Phoenix* case involving turpentine that evaporated in transit. In that case, the policies contained the time clause limitation, but there was none in the certificate. It was held the certificate was the actual insurance, and the time clauses not contained in it could not be read into it (p. 544). The judgment was affirmed by the Lords. At page 544 it is stated:

> "It follows, I think, that all clauses of the policy which are essential to the contract of marine insurance must be read into the certificate, but beyond that there is no necessity to go. The condition in question is a collateral stipulation [a one year contractual time bar clause] imposing a condition precedent. It has

> nothing particular to do with insurance, but might be applied to any contract. Common sense and fairness revolt against the idea of this being enforced against the holder or indorsee of the certificate . . . [who could never have seen the policy]."[21]

The trial court in the *Phoenix* case had not held, as the district court did here, that the limitation clause was part of the actual contract between the parties. The appellate court there was affirming the court of appeals (31 Times L.R. 361). Had the lower court held there as the court did here, what would the appellant there have argued?

Having held the clause to be valid and an essential part of the contract entered into (for which there was ample support in law), we do not believe the district court's conclusion on this point was erroneous.

B. Was it proper for the district court to deny appellants a trial by jury? This is a matter within the discretion of the district court, and we conclude no abuse of said discretion is shown. However, because of the importance of this issue, we feel it must be discussed at some length. Our task is further enlarged by a complicated and confusing state of the record, and the manner in which this issue was presented to the trial court. We recognize that since "a right to trial by jury is a constitutional one . . . [the

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[21] The factual situation was, to say the least, unusual. Lord Atkin said:

> "The so-called policy is in fact misnamed. It does not insure anything, it neither defines the subject-matter insured, except that it is merchandise, principally . . . naval stores, nor the voyage insured, nor the sum insured. It is a promise during a certain time to issue policies to the named assured against named risks, but the completed policies named in the certificates are to be capable of varying the conditions of the policy, in accordance with written instructions given from time to time by the insurers. . . . The [limitation] clause is not one which binds the certificate holder." *Id.* at 549.

court's] discretion is very narrowly limited," and "must, wherever possible be exercised to preserve jury trial"[22]— yet the Rules of Civil Procedure mean something, and a limited judicial discretion must of necessity still exist.

The district court's "Memorandum Decision Re Applicable Law Jury Demand," at page 224 of the record, reads as follows:

> "It is indisputable on the record that plaintiffs' demand for jury trial was untimely by a substantial margin and that this constitutes jury waiver under F. R. Civ. P. 38(d). Although allowed ample time and opportunity therefore plaintiffs have not made a showing which amounts to excusable neglect, inadvertence or mistake or other basis on which the court in its discretion should order jury trial under F. R. Civ. P. 39(b). Plaintiffs' motion for jury trial is denied; exception allowed."

Finding of Fact No. III supports the above decision.

It is undisputed appellants never perfected a jury demand in the district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. There is dispute as to whether a jury demand was perfected in the State court. The right to jury trial in the State court is governed by RCW 4.44.100. This statute expressly requires that a statement electing jury trial be both served *and* filed *and* a jury fee paid. Unless such statement "is filed . . . the parties shall be deemed to have waived trial by jury and *consented* to a trial by court." (Emphasis added.)

The jury demand was never *filed*. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 38(d) requires that a jury demand is filed,

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[22] *Beacon Theatres* v. *Westover* (1959), 359 U.S. 500, 510. As Mr. Justice Black, the author of the *Beacon Theatres* case decision, said with respect to its holding:

> "*Beacon Theatres* requires that any legal issue for which a trial by jury *is timely and properly demanded* be submitted to a jury." (Emphasis added.) *Dairy Queen* v. *Wood*, 369 U.S. 469.

and upon failure to do so, applies the penalty of a waiver of jury trial. Appellants now take the position they had established their *right* to a jury trial in the State court action. They state in their reply brief (p. 15):

> "Insurers caused to be inserted in the printed record certain material not in the record, and not in existence at the time of judgment, without leave of the court or notice to their adversaries."

This reference is to pages 51 to 53, inclusive, of the record, which contain an affidavit of appellees' counsel to which is attached a photostat of the Appearance Docket of some case pending in Pierce County, Washington, entitled "Mike Barovic (sic)[2] vs. L. Symes, et al." This photostat is described in the affidavit to which it was attached as "a certified copy of the Docket in case #37440 entitled Pacific Queen Fisheries, a partnership, et al., v. L. Symes." We assume that this is an accurate photostat of the Appearance Docket of the Pierce County Superior Court in one of the cases then before it and now before us (now No. 17460) on appeal.

When appellants urged the jury question in their opening brief (pp. 52-54), they took the position, unlike the one taken before the trial judge, that serving a demand for jury trial, and paying the required fee "completed the formalities required of a plaintiff for a right to trial by jury under the Rules of Procedure of the Superior Court for the State of Washington."

Appellees urged first that failure to file the demand for a jury trial waived or forfeited any right to it; and *secondly*, that the appellants in the federal courts (a) had neither filed a timely demand for a jury trial, and (b) had never urged that they had "completed all formalities" required by the State court, and hence had not acquired any "right" to a jury trial. The issue not having been raised below could

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[2] Mike Barovic, of course, here named as a plaintiff, was one plaintiff and a partner of Pacific Queen Fisheries.

not be raised on this appeal. In other words, appellants asked for a jury trial (under Rule 39(b)—discretion of trial judge), but never took the position they were entitled to it as a matter of right. They did not deny a technical waiver had occurred, merely that there had been "no conscious waiver." (Supp. Tr. of September 26, 1960, p. 45.)

To substantiate appellees' position, they filed in this court on March 29, 1962, a motion to augment the record, in the following particulars:

1. The Notice of Argument dated September 6, 1960.

2. The Notice of setting cause for trial.

3. Portions of defendant-appellees' Reply Brief, opposing jury trial, filed September 19, 1960.

4. Plaintiff-appellants' Memorandum in support of jury trial.

5. The Transcript of proceedings before the trial judge, had on September 26, 1960.

Appellants here had no objection to such augmentation—provided they were permitted to augment the record by an affidavit, made by the judge of the Washington State court to which was attached his rough calendar for November 21, 1960; and a reporter's transcript of the proceedings had before him on September 12, 1960. On that date the State court agreed to set the case for trial late in November. On September 12, 1960, Mr. Copeland, counsel for appellants, there questioned the judge: "I would assume about a four-day jury trial?" and Mr. Stephan, counsel for present appellees, stated: "I think it would be more like ten, if we have a jury. We have no jury in the federal court; the federal court is going to dispose of all of this matter."

There being no objection to the augmenting of the record, by either side, this court granted each side leave to augment.

Between the September 12, 1960 appearance and the November 21, 1960 "future setting" for a trial by jury, in the

State court, the federal court held a hearing on the matter. This was on September 26, 1960. On that date, Mr. Bow, appearing as counsel for appellants, moved the federal court "that we remove our State court case to this Court and consolidate the two for purpose of trial." This was agreed to by counsel for defendant-appellees and approved by the court. The litigants then presented authorities and arguments on that same date with respect to appellees' request for a jury trial. This was a 39(b) motion addressed to the sound discretion of the court. In their memorandum of law in support of such motion, Pacific Queen significantly conceded:

> "* * * plaintiffs may not have a jury trial as of right. However, this Court in its discretion may upon proper application grant an order placing the matter upon the Civil Jury Calendar. The authority for such an order lies in Rule 39(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure * * *. Plaintiffs have moved the court *for such an order* and submit this brief in support of their application." (Emphasis by appellants.) (Augmented Record, Item 4, pp. 1-2.)

As a result, the district court had no notice of the now claimed *right* to jury in the State court. At no time did appellants file a jury demand as required by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 5(d) and 38(d). Appellants now raise an issue never raised in the trial court. Furthermore, it will be recalled that one case on this appeal (No. 17,461) had originally been filed in the State court and was removed to the district court which denied remand; the other case on this appeal (No. 17,460), originally filed in the State court, and afterwards removed to the Federal court, remanded back to the State court was then by motion and stipulation (see note 24, *infra*) returned to the Federal court and consolidated with No. 17,461. No timely jury demand was made in the "No. 17,461" case, then pending in the Federal court; appellants do not contend otherwise. With this in mind, the stipulation bears out the fact that the district

court neither committed error nor abused its discretion. Appellants entered into the significant stipulation, which appears in the margin,[24] with respect to the cases.

Under all the circumstances here appearing, we believe the district court properly consolidated the cases as non-jury cases. We hold there was no abuse of discretion.

C. Was the district court correct in holding appellants Hull, Peck and Royer to be partners in Pacific Queen Fisheries, and necessary parties whose admissions would be binding on appellant Pacific Queen? We hold it was. We think this is adequately demonstrated by a reading of Conclusion of Law X (R. 285-286).

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[24] The stipulation reads:

"1. That these causes shall be consolidated for trial, and that since the issues and contentions of the parties are the same or similar save and except as to the fact that suit is brought upon different policies of insurance, the pre-trial order heretofore entered in cause No. 2543 and any and all supplements or amendments thereto, shall be deemed and considered as applicable to and controlling upon the issues of this case except insofar as it shall be necessary during the course of the trial to indicate verbally or in writing that some such provision is not entirely applicable or that some additional proof or provision should be made other than contained in the pre trial order, it being the understanding and the purpose of this stipulation to avoid the necessity of the long and laborious work of another pre-trial order, it being the contemplation of the parties that there can be very little if any differences other than clerical or mechanical as the same may be made applicable to certain different documents that afford the basis for the insurance and that this stipulation is made for the convenience of counsel and the Court to avoid unnecessary paper work in the obtaining of a pre-trial order, but at the same time eliminate any excessive amount of trial work which would be eliminated by the pre-trial order but at the same time to not foreclose either party from the right or privilege of producing any evidence or making any contention which is necessary to the proper presentation of the party's case by reason of the fact that the pre-trial order is not separately prepared and is incorporated by reference to this stipulation."

However, appellants do not deem the point worthy of extensive discussion because "we know of no damaging 'admissions' made by any of these three men as referred to in the lower court's Finding of Fact X . . ." We do not consider that this point warrants further discussion. Thus, even if error, the error is harmless.

Finding no error, we *affirm* the judgment below for the reasons stated above.

(Endorsed) Opinion Filed Aug. 3, 1962.

Frank H. Schmid, Clerk.

Court of Appeals Judgments Sought to Be Reviewed

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

No. 17460

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, *et al.*,

Appellants,

vs.

L. SYMES, *et al.*,

Appellees.

APPEAL from the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Southern Division.

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard on the Transcript of the Record from the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Southern Division, and on motion of appellees to augment record and was duly submitted.

ON CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, It is now here ordered and adjudged by this Court, that the motion to augment record is granted, and that the judgment of the said District Court in this Cause be, and hereby is affirmed, with costs in this court in favor of the appellees and against the appellants.

It is further ordered and adjudged by this Court that the appellees recover against the appellants for their costs herein and have execution therefor.

Filed and entered August 3, 1962.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

No. 17461

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, *et al.*,

Appellants,

vs.

ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY, *et al.*,

Appellees.

APPEAL from the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Southern Division.

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard on the Transcript of the Record from the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Southern Division, and was duly submitted.

ON CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, It is now ordered and adjudged by this Court, that the judgment of the said District Court in this Cause be, and hereby is affirmed, with costs in this court in favor of the appellees and against the appellants.

It is further ordered and adjudged by this Court that the appellees recover against the appellants for their costs herein and have execution therefor.

Filed and entered August 3, 1962.

Pertinent Text of Constitutional Provision, Statute, Act, and Rules Involved

I

PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO PETITIONERS' ARGUMENT THAT COURT OF APPEALS DECISION DIVERGES FROM ENGLISH LAW AND USAGE

Marine Insurance Act, 1906, 6 Edw. 7, C. 41:

* * *

Section 17:

"A contract of marine insurance is a contract based upon the utmost good faith, and, if the utmost good faith be not observed by either party, the contract may be avoided by the other party."

* * *

Section 18:

"(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the assured must disclose to the insurer, before the contract is concluded, every material circumstance which is known to the assured, and the assured is deemed to know every circumstance which, in the ordinary course of business, ought to be known by him. If the assured fails to make such disclosure, the insurer may avoid the contract.

(2) Every circumstance is material which would influence the judgment of a prudent insurer in fixing the premium, or determining whether he will take the risk.

(3) In the absence of inquiry the following circumstances need not be disclosed, namely:

(a) Any circumstance which diminishes the risk;

(b) Any circumstance which is known or presumed to be known to the insurer. The insurer is pre-

sumed to know matters of common notoriety or knowledge, and matters which an insurer in the ordinary course of his business, as such, ought to know;

(c) Any circumstance as to which information is waived by the insurer;

(d) Any circumstance which it is superfluous to disclose by reason of any express or implied warranty.

(4) Whether any particular circumstance, which is not disclosed, be material or not is, in each case, a question of fact.

(5) The term 'circumstance' includes any communication made to, or information received by, the assured."

* * *

Section 39(5):

"In a time policy there is no implied warranty that the ship shall be seaworthy at any stage of the adventure, but where, with privity of the assured, the ship is sent to sea in an unseaworthy state, the insurer is not liable for any loss attributable to unseaworthiness."

* * *

Section 55(2)(a):

"(2) In particular,—

(a) The insurer is not liable for any loss attributable to the wilful misconduct of the assured, but, unless the policy otherwise provides, he is liable for any loss proximately caused by a peril insured against, even though the loss would not have happened but for the misconduct or negligence of the master or crew."

* * *

II

PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO PETITIONERS' ARGUMENT THAT THE COURT OF APPEALS DECISION UPHOLDING THE DISTRICT COURT'S DENIAL OF JURY TRIAL SANCTIONS A DEPARTURE FROM THE ACCEPTED AND USUAL COURSE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

The *Seventh Amendment* to the *Constitution of the United States* (U. S. C. A. Constitution Amend., p. 379):

"In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of common law."

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, 28 U. S. C. A.:

* * *

"Rule 38. Jury Trial of Right.

(a) RIGHT PRESERVED. The right of trial by jury as declared by the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution or as given by a statute of the United States shall be preserved to the parties inviolate.

(b) DEMAND. Any party may demand a trial by jury of any issue triable of right by a jury by serving upon the other parties a demand therefor in writing at any time after the commencement of the action and not later than 10 days after the service of the last pleading directed to such issue. Such demand may be indorsed upon a pleading of the party.

(c) SAME: SPECIFICATION OF ISSUES. In his demand a party may specify the issues which he wishes so tried; otherwise he shall be deemed to have de-

manded trial by jury for all the issues so triable. If he has demanded trial by jury for only some of the issues, any other party within 10 days after service of the demand or such lesser time as the court may order, may serve a demand for trial by jury of any other or all of the issues of fact in the action.

(d) WAIVER. The failure of a party to serve a demand as required by this rule and to file it as required by Rule 5(d) constitutes a waiver by him of trial by jury. A demand for trial by jury made as herein provided may not be withdrawn without the consent of the parties."

"Rule 39. Trial by Jury or by the Court.

(a) BY JURY. When trial by jury has been demanded as provided in Rule 38, the action shall be designated upon the docket as a jury action. The trial of all issues so demanded shall be by jury, unless (1) the parties or their attorneys of record, by written stipulation filed with the court or by an oral stipulation made in open court and entered in the record, consent to trial by the court sitting without a jury or (2) the court upon motion or of its own initiative finds that a right of trial by jury of some or all of those issues does not exist under the Constitution or statutes of the United States.

(b) BY THE COURT. Issues not demanded for trial by jury as provided in Rule 38 shall be tried by the court; but, notwithstanding the failure of a party to demand a jury in an action in which such a demand might have been made of right, the court in its discretion upon motion may order a trial by a jury of any or all issues.

(c) ADVISORY JURY AND TRIAL BY CONSENT. In all actions not triable of right by a jury the court upon motion or of its own initiative may try any issue with an advisory jury or, except in actions against the United States when a statute of the United States provides for trial without a jury, the court, with the consent of both parties, may order a trial with a jury whose verdict has the same effect as if trial by jury had been a matter of right."

* * *

Rule 81(c):

"(c) REMOVED ACTIONS. These rules apply to civil actions removed to the United States district courts from the state courts and govern procedure after removal. Repleading is not necessary unless the court so orders. In a removed action in which the defendant has not answered, he shall answer or present the other defenses or objections available to him under these rules within 20 days after the receipt through service or otherwise of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which the action or proceeding is based; or within 20 days after the service of summons upon such initial pleading, then filed, or within 5 days after the filing of the petition for removal, whichever period is longest. If at the time of removal all necessary pleadings have been served, a party entitled to trial by jury under Rule 38 shall be accorded it, if his demand therefor is served within 10 days after the petition for removal is filed if he is the petitioner, or if he is not the petitioner within 10 days after service on him of the notice of filing the petition."

Revised Code of Washington, § 4.44.100:

"JURY TRIAL FEE WAIVER. In all civil actions triable by a jury in the superior court any party to the action may, at or prior to the time the case is called to be set for trial, serve upon the opposite party or his attorney, and file with the clerk of the court a statement of himself, or attorney, that he elects to have such case tried by jury. At the time of filing such statement such party shall also deposit with the clerk of the court twelve dollars, which deposit, in the event that the case is settled out of court prior to the time that such case is called to be heard upon trial, shall be returned to such party by such clerk. Unless such statement is filed and such deposit made, the parties shall be deemed to have waived trial by jury, and consented to a trial by the court. PROVIDED, That, in the superior courts of counties of the first class such parties shall serve and file such statement, in manner herein provided, at any time not later than two days before the time the case is called to be set for trial. [1909 c 205 § 1; 1903 c 43 § 1; RRS § 316. FORMER PARTS OF SECTION: Code 1881 § 248 now in RCW 4.48.010.]"

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No. 655

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1962

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v.
L. SYMES, *et al.*, *Respondents*

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR RESPONDENTS IN OPPOSITION

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BRIEF FOR RESPONDENTS IN OPPOSITION

OPINIONS BELOW

1. The Opinion of the Court of Appeals of August 3, 1962, modified *sua sponte* August 31, 1962, unanimously affirming the District Court, is reported in 307 F.2d 700, and 1962 A.M.C. 1845. It is reprinted as "APPENDIX A" hereto, because petitioners appended a copy (Pet. 1a-31a)[1] which

[1] The following abbreviations are used in this Reply:

OP.: Official slip opinion of Court of Appeals, as modified, in full text including all footnotes reproduced herein, pp. 1A-35A.

Pet.: Petition for Writ of Certiorari and appended material.

R.: Record certified by Court of Appeals comprising printed volumes I through IV (R. 1-1691) and typewritten Supplemental Vol. V (R. 1691A-1820) and Vols. VI and VII (comprising certain loose exhibits as identified therein).

T.P.: Transcript of Proceedings in Trial Court (5 typewritten volumes, pp. 1-1820), subsequently designated by petitioners for certification to this Court and also transmitted under Clerk's Certificate in R. Vol. V.

deleted several pertinent footnotes.[2]

2. The District Court's successive opinions on issues now raised by the Petition, in chronological sequence, are contained in the record as indicated below:

a. Its Oral Decision, of August 15, 1960, denying petitioners' Demand for Jury Trial under F.R. Civ. P. 38(b) and (d) because not made until "well beyond the

[2] This Court's Rule 23.1(i) requires:

"There shall be appended to the petition a copy of any opinions delivered upon the rendering of the judgment or decree sought to be reviewed * * *."

The "Opinion" appended to the Petition (Pet. 1a ff.) deleted:

[e]xtensive portions of the District Court's Findings of Fact * * * printed in footnotes 10, 13, 17 and 19 to the Court of Appeal's opinion * * *" (Pet. 2).

Those four footnotes contain the Court's summary of the basic facts supporting the concurrent, unanimous decisions of two courts on the three main factual questions now presented by petitioners: (a) concealment; (b) unseaworthiness; and (c) want of due diligence (Pet. 3). This deletion is over one-fifth of the Opinion, comprising some eight pages of the thirty-five page Opinion of the Court of Appeals. Petitioners claimed that these were deleted because this:

"pertinent material appears printed in full in the Record (*R. 249-278*)" (Pet. 2).

But petitioners' bare citation—"(R. 249-278)"—identifies the entire Findings and does not cite the record pages of "pertinent material" on each of the crucial issues. Thus the deleted lengthy footnotes are supplanted by a row of three asterisks, without any reference to their content, or to the deleted "pertinent material," or to the pages in the record where this Court may find support for each challenged finding. Cf. Pet. 10a, 16a, 20a, 21a, and its footnotes 10, 13, 17 and 19, with OP., *infra*, 1A-35A.

"* * *[A] footnote is as much a part of the opinion as the matter contained in the body of the opinion, is as important as the remainder of the opinion, and has like binding force and effect." *U.S. v. Egelak*, 173 F.Supp. 206, 210 (D.C. Alaska, 1959).

Cf. *Gray v. Union Joint Stock Land Bank*, 105 F.2d 275 (6 Cir., 1939), rev'd. on other grounds, 308 U.S. 523 (1939); *Melancon v. Walt Disney Productions*, 127 Cal. App. 560, 273 P.2d 560 (1954).

Respondents have therefore reproduced herein as "APPENDIX A" (OP. 1A-35A) the full text of the Court of Appeals' Opinion, including its footnotes. As so reprinted it is designated by capital "A" references to distinguish from petitioners' abbreviated copy that uses a style of lower case "a" references.

time required by the rules for demanding jury trial" *(R. 298, 312)*.

b. Its Memorandum Decision, of September 28, 1960, denying petitioners' Motion for a discretionary grant of jury trial under F.R. Civ. P. 39(b) because no sufficient grounds were shown therefor *(R. 224)*;

c. Its Oral Decision on the Facts, of November 17, 1960 *(R. 227-248)*.

d. Its Oral Decision on the Law, of March 23, 1961 *(R. 290-295)*.

e. Its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, of March 23, 1961 *(R. 249-287)*; also unofficially reported in 1962 A.M.C. 574-600.

JURISDICTION

Respondents accept petitioners' statement of jurisdiction (Pet. 2).

STATUTES INVOLVED

Respondents accept petitioners' quotation from relevant statutes (Pet. 34a, ff), except the Marine Insurance Act, 1906 wherein they delete significant captions and text, *e.g.*, Pet. 34a substitutes a row of three asterisks for the textual caption of its Section 17: "*Insurance is uberrimæ fidei*"; and similar relevant captions of other sections. They also omitted other Sections (§§ 3, 19, 20, 35, 39 (full text) and 41) of that Act deemed relevant by the District Court (R. 277, 280-1, 285). Accordingly the cited, or pertinent, sections are reprinted as "APPENDIX B" herein.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

Petitioners have not stated their "Questions Presented" precisely. Instead, they state the defenses raised by respondents and adopted by both courts below as follows:

"1. [Petitioners] concealed from [Respondents] circumstances material to the risk.

"2. The PACIFIC QUEEN was, with the privity of the assureds, sent to sea in an unseaworthy state.

"3. The loss and damage resulted from want of due diligence by the owners of the vessel." (Pet. 3).

Then they state that the basic question is:

"Whether or not any of these defenses may stand under English law and usage and under all the circumstances of the losses and damage * * *." (Pet. 3).

Thus, petitioners either ask this Court to re-appraise each of the detailed findings of fact of the courts below "under *all* the circumstances of the losses and damage" to determine whether they support the challenged findings and the three conclusions quoted above; or else they ask this Court to review all of the concurrent legal conclusions of the courts below on the premise that every one of them is wrong under English law and usage; since each constitutes a separate and complete defense.

Defenses (1) and (2) are stated precisely in terms of the quoted sections of the British Marine Insurance Act, 1906. See Secs. 17, 18 and 39(5), *infra*, APPENDIX B, 36B ff.

Defense (3) is stated in terms of the so-called "Inchmaree clause" of the insurance policies which alone covers loss by explosion and involves a pure matter of policy interpretation (OP. 22A).

A question presented as to whether "all the circumstances" support the legal conclusions under applicable statutory and contractual provisions can only present questions of fact, the review of which would require exhaustive examination of all of the evidence before the Trial Court.[3]

[3] This includes not only the 1691 pages of the Transcript of Record Vol. I-IV) printed for the Court of Appeals, and of pages 1691-A through 1820, certified by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals on October 16, 1962 (R., Vol. V), and of the 1519 pages of the typewritten Transcript of Trial and Index in the District Court (Vol. I-V), and certain original exhibits also designated for transmission to this Court (R. Vol. VI), Appeal Court Clerk's Certificate of November 27, 1962; but also many other voluminous exhibits marked and received from

Since petitioners apparently challenge all of the concurrent legal conclusions of the courts below summarized in the three separate defenses outlined above, the question presented is apparently whether or not those courts erred in every concurrent application of English law and usage to the facts of the cases.

Petitioners also seek to have this Court review the collateral question:

> "4. Whether a contractual time bar provision advanced by one of the Insurers, Buffalo Insurance Company should be given effect." (Pet. 4).

This question cannot be reached unless both lower courts are reversed on their findings and conclusions applicable to all the insurance. It relates to only a small part of the insurance (R. 69, 76), and is a technical matter of no general interest which was fully analyzed by the District Court (R. 286) and by the Court of Appeals (OP. 28A-30A).

Petitioners finally claim they were wrongfully denied a jury trial on a ground which relates to only one of two cases before the District Court, and which they did not present at any time before, during, or after, trial; and which the Court of Appeals held was therefore waived on appeal (OP. 32A-33A) and in any event lacked merit (OP. 33A-34A). We shall state the facts relating to this contention, *infra*, p. 24.

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioners state:

> "The basic facts, which are not in dispute, are as follows: * * *." (Pet. 4).

But petitioners excluded so many "basic facts" that re-

Ex. 2 through Ex. 457 (T.P. 40-1386, *passim*); a detailed model of the PACIFIC QUEEN, and certain valves and other parts (Ex. 201-205, R. 357-8; R. 649-50); and the "Hulk and component parts of the PACIFIC QUEEN" as she then lay, after re-floating, at Lake Union, Seattle, which was viewed by the trier of the facts in Nov., 1960 (R. 221, 243-4).

spondents, relying principally on the Court of Appeals' opinion, must restate the pertinent facts. References to the Opinion are to "APPENDIX A" hereto.

> "The PACIFIC QUEEN was built in 1943 for the Navy. The vessel had a wooden hull and structure with steel decks and deckhouse; she was 988 gross tons, * * * and propelled by 1600 HP twin-screw diesel engines. Built for Navy salvage operations, she had been outfitted with two 1500 gallon gasoline tanks which were equipped with 'a very safe' aqua or hydraulic system which dispensed gasoline by injecting water through interior piping into the tanks (thus forcing the gasoline of lighter specific gravity to rise) thereby transferring the gasoline through permanent piping to pumps and discharge valves, *located above deck.*" (OP. 2A; emphasis supplied by the Court of Appeals).

In 1949, she was acquired by the partnership, d/b/a Petitioners, et al. (R. 198, 253; OP. 2A).

> "In 1949, pursuant to Coast Guard orders when the vessel was chartered to carry cargo to Hawaii, the Navy's aqua system for transporting and dispensing gasoline from the vessel's two aft gasoline tanks was blanked off and disconnected, and the two tanks were filled with water." (OP. 3A, fn. 3).

> "Beginning in 1950, [petitioners] operated the PACIFIC QUEEN between Puget Sound and Bristol Bay, Alaska, as a refrigerated vessel to freeze and transport catches of salmon from Alaska to ports on Puget Sound. In 1951 regulations which prior thereto had prohibited power-driven fishing boats in Bristol Bay, as a fish conservation measure, were relaxed and power boats (*e.g.*, gillnetters) up to thirty-two feet in length were permitted. Many of the gillnetters are powered by gasoline; others are powered by diesel fuel. Both types of fuel may be obtained from various sources in Alaska." (OP. 3A).

On various occasions between 1950 and 1957, petitioners sought hull insurance through their various brokers. Some brokers requested a condition survey report of the vessel

by the Board of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco or by the United States Salvage Association (OP. 3A). On other occasions petitioners sought hull insurance through other brokers who requested similar condition survey reports by:

> "• • • other well recognized and competent surveyors • • •. This was done in 1950 by Alexander Gow, Inc. and in 1953 by Captain Adrian Rayhand, but neither surveyor reported the existence of any gasoline or gasoline tank capacity aboard the PACIFIC QUEEN." (OP. 3A).

In 1955, a condition survey report of the PACIFIC QUEEN was made by Edward Marquat of the United States Salvage Association.

> "He made an exceptionally careful and meticulous survey. His condition report (six single-spaced pages) is dated May 13, 1955. With respect to gasoline, his report read in full text:
>
> "'Fuel and Water Capacities:
>
> Fuel —49,000 gallons
> Water—14,000 "
> Gas — 3,000 "
>
> (Gasoline tanks under deck all, proper filling lines and vents to atmosphere).'" (OP. 4A).

The PACIFIC QUEEN did not operate in 1956 (OP. 4A), and hence no condition survey report was made that year. Before the 1957 season began, petitioners knew that Marquat's 1955 report was the latest information respondents had concerning gasoline capacity and fittings of the PACIFIC QUEEN, because in 1956 one of petitioners, John Vilicich, an active partner in Pacific Queen Fisheries and also engaged in the marine insurance business, had asked for and received a copy of that 1955 Marquat report (Dft. Ex. 456; R. 904-5, 1360, 1373, 1633, T.P. 1321).

In 1957, petitioners, in preparation for resuming operations:

> " • • • particularly requested a survey of two newly purchased gillnetters and, incidentally, of the PACIFIC QUEEN. J. E. Elkins, an experienced surveyor, made the survey. Elkins' only other survey of this vessel was made in 1949—at which time no gasoline was being carried by the vessel. His report (Exs. 359, 360),[4] dated May 2, 1957, like those of Gow's (in 1950)[5] and Raynaud's (in 1953),[6] made no reference to gasoline tank capacity, nor to any bulk gasoline carried aboard the vessel." (OP. 4A)

At some unascertained date subsequent to the 1955 Marquat survey, and prior to the attachment date of the insurances of May 24, 1957, petitioners increased the PACIFIC QUEEN's gasoline tank capacity from 3,000 gallons to 8,000 gallons (R. 260, OP. 4A, 5A). Petitioners do not dispute that:

> "This increased gasoline capacity was accomplished by filling two tanks, theretofore used for diesel fuel, with 5,000 gallons of gasoline. Gasoline is a far more hazardous commodity than diesel oil to use or transport. [Petitioners]inserted below-deck exposed gasoline discharge valves into fittings that had been designed and used for insertion of permanently secured drainage plugs. These valve replacements were located in or near a passageway where ship's equipment, fishing gear and personnel frequently passed.
>
> "These alterations for discharging gasoline adapted by the PACIFIC QUEEN were apparently unique to her. Such a system or method of handling and discharging gasoline was not in common usage. It was not used on other vessels in which some of the PACIFIC QUEEN's owners had, and have, an interest." (OP. 4A 5A).

These hazardous changes had been ordered by and were known to petitioner-owners and managers (OP. 4A-5A; 9A, fn. 10, Findings IX-A, D, X-A; 24A, fn. 17, Findings XIII-A, B).

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[4] (Footnote supplied.) Admitted sub number Pl. Exs. 17 and 18; R. 348, 351.

[5] (Footnote supplied.) Pl. Ex. 9, R. 348, 351.

[6] (Footnote supplied.) Dft. Ex. 363, T.P. 1354.

"It is impossible to fix the exact date of these changes because the owners failed to come forward with any information until very late, and the information then offered was exceedingly vague and unsatisfactory." (OP. 10A, fn. 10, Finding IX-B).

This increased gasoline capacity was a material increase in the risk, and the drastically altered method of discharging gasoline was an even greater material increase in the risk. These increases in the risk were obvious facts known to and virtually admitted by petitioners (OP. 5A; 10A, fn. 10, Findings IX-C, D, and D (*sic*); 24A, fn. 17, Findings XIII A and B).

Surveyor Elkins had neither actual nor constructive knowledge of these dangerous alterations nor could he have observed them by reasonable inspection (OP. 4A; 11A, fn. 10, Findings X-B, C, D, E, F, H; 14A; 15A; R. 249 at 258, Finding VIII-J).

Both courts found:

"[Respondents] would not have insured the vessel if [petitioners] or their brokers (who were also kept in the dark)[7] had disclosed any or all of the several material increases in the risk." (OP. 17A; 12A, Findings X-J, X-L).

After these hazardous and unique alterations had been accomplished, the PACIFIC QUEEN took on some 8,000 gallons of bulk gasoline and set out from Seattle for Alaska for the 1957 fishing season. Upon her return from Alaska in August, 1957, she shifted between various Puget Sound docks; and then she was sent from Seattle to Friday Harbor, Washington, with the knowledge of petitioners, her owners and manager (OP. 5A).

"While the PACIFIC QUEEN was at Friday Harbor,

[7] (Footnote supplied.) *e.g.* R. 947-8; 1356, 1363, 1365.

she had on board approximately 2,000 gallons of gasoline. On September 9, 1957, while at Friday Harbor, 500 to 600 gallons of gasoline were spilled from one of the vessel's tanks in its hold into the interior of the vessel.[8] While [petitioners] minimized the seriousness of this spillage, the court below believed it was a serious incident. It created great hazards to the ship, life and property. Gasoline from the spillage soaked and impregnated large parts of the wooden hull and structure of the vessel. It was not a sudden spill. It began early in the evening preceding its discovery at 4:00 a.m. by the cook. It lasted at least six hours, probably longer. In the course of the spillage, liquid gasoline and gasoline fumes permeated the lower after portion of the vessel.

"The spillage was reported to one of the [petitioner]-owners and manager of the vessel, [petitioner] Mardesich, while he was in Friday Harbor on September 9, 1957. He inspected the vessel but gave no specific orders as to the methods to be used in cleaning her. He did not order any chemical tests to be made to determine if she was gas-free; he did not order the plugging-up of the valves on the other gasoline tanks to prevent similar spills. Nor did he order the discharge of the remaining gasoline from the other tanks.

"In an attempt to purge the vessel of gasoline, cold water, sprayed through a hose, was used to wash down the area. After removal of all visible traces of gasoline, the area was again washed down with cold water, and a bilge cleaning solvent was used in an attempt to remove the gasoline from the wooden hull. Portable blowers were used to remove gasoline fumes from the vessel. Then, on the evening of September 10, 1957, the vessel's ventilation blowers were placed into operation to free the vessel from gasoline fumes." (OP. 5A-6A)

Based on undisputed testimony of expert witnesses, both courts found the steps taken by the owners and manager to purge the vessel of gasoline and gasoline fumes to be grossly

[8] (Footnote supplied.) This amounted to some 3 to 3 and ½ feet of gasoline spilled into the interior portion of the PACIFIC QUEEN (T.P. 1138).

inadequate (OP. 6A). After the spill and with the knowledge of the vessel's owner and manager, a plug was put into the discharge valve of one of the tanks; but no precautions were taken to prevent similiar spills from the remaining three tanks (OP. 6A). The Court of Appeals quoted with approval the Trial Court's finding that:

> "All of the [petitioners'] witnesses, including two of the part-owners, who were experienced in the handling of gasoline, agreed that this was a serious want of due diligence." (OP. 6A)

It was extraordinarily hazardous to send the vessel to sea in such a condition, since it could take a period of weeks before the vessel was sufficiently gas free to operate with safety (OP. 6A-7A; R. 249 at 267, Finding XI-C).

On the evening of September 11, 1957, the PACIFIC QUEEN was again sent to sea from Friday Harbor to Seattle with the knowledge and privity of its owners and manager. She remained in Seattle a few days and then was sent to Tacoma (OP. 7A; 18A, fn. 13, Finding XI-E).

Shortly thereafter, in the early morning of September 17, 1957, a violent gasoline explosion destroyed the PACIFIC QUEEN (OP. 2A, 7A, 22A). It was caused by the free gasoline and gasoline vapors remaining in the vessel after the Friday Harbor spill (OP. 22A, fn. 17, Finding XII-A). A fire followed the explosion and the vessel soon settled on a shallow bottom with a 10° list to starboard.

> "But the explosion had already caused such extensive wreckage as to render her a constructive and total loss * * * *",

regardless of a subsequent fire and settling in shallow water (OP. 7A; 23A, fn. 17, Finding XII-A).

The District Court exonerated respondents from liability on the hull insurance on the PACIFIC QUEEN on three separate and independent grounds: (a) concealment; (b) unseaworthiness; (c) want of due diligence. The Court of Appeals

unanimously affirmed, agreeing in all three respects with the District Court.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

It is respectfully submitted that certiorari should be denied because these cases do not meet any of the criteria of this Court's Rule 19. They depend entirely upon their own peculiar facts, to which two concurrent courts carefully and unanimously applied English law and usage (OP. 9-26). Nor do petitioners cite any appellate English cases, or any English authorities *contra* on facts similar to those established here.

Nor, as to the collateral questions, was any prejudicial or procedural error committed. The time-bar arising from petitioners' delay in bringing suit against Buffalo depends upon its own facts (OP. 28A-30A). Petitioners had waived jury trial, and the court did not abuse its discretion in trying these two complex maritime insurance cases without a jury; and no prejudice was alleged or shown during a full and fair trial of seventeen days by the District Court, or in the comprehensive review by the Court of Appeals (OP. 30A-34A).

While these cases, like any other petitions for certiorari, may be of pecuniary moment to petitioners, they present no question warranting certiorari with its attendant further time and expense to the parties, or its incursion upon the time of this Court; and therefore the Petition should be denied.

ARGUMENT

I. The Insurance Is Void Because Petitioners Concealed from Underwriters Material Increases in the Risk

Under English law, the duty to make full disclosure in marine insurance is denominated one of "*uberrimae fidei.*" 10 *British Shipping Laws* (Arnould, 15th ed., 1961) 1264, Sec. 17. The relevant text of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, (Appendix B, *infra*, 37B ff.) then provides:

"17. A contract of marine insurance is a contract based upon the *utmost* good faith, and, if the utmost good faith be not observed by either party, the contract may be avoided by the other party." (Emphasis supplied).

"18.—(1) * * * the assured must disclose to the insurer, before the contract is concluded, every material circumstance which is known to the assured, and the assured is deemed to know every circumstance which, in the ordinary course of business, ought to be known by him. If the assured fails to make such disclosure, the insurer may avoid the contract.

"(2) Every circumstance is material which would influence the judgment of a prudent insurer in fixing the premium, or determining whether he will take the risk."

Section 18 of that Act then states exceptions to the duty to disclose, the benefit of which are claimed by petitioners, as follows:

"(3) In the absence of inquiry the following circumstances need not be disclosed, namely:—

"(a) * * *

"(b) Any circumstance which is known or presumed to be known to the insurer. The insurer is presumed to know matters of common notoriety or knowledge, and matters which an insurer in the ordinary course of his business, as such, ought to know;

"(c) Any circumstance as to which information is waived by the insurer;

"(d) * * *

"(4) Whether any particular circumstance, which is not disclosed, be material or not is, in each case, a question of fact.

"(5) The term 'circumstance' includes any communication made to, or information received by, the assured."

Petitioners, the owners and managers of the PACIFIC QUEEN, apparently do not challenge the concurrent findings of their failure to disclose their material increases in the risks to the Underwriters-respondents, or to their own in-

surance brokers, or to the surveyor who acted at their request. They advised no one of the extra-hazardous and unprecedented alterations which they contemplated making or had made in the storage and transportation of bulk gasoline inside the PACIFIC QUEEN (OP. 17A).

They do not challenge the two courts' findings that the alterations were not observable by reasonable inspection. Nor do they claim that these changes were immaterial increases in the risk.

Their Petition for Certiorari now appears to be based on a contention that both courts below erred in applying English law and usage as to waiver of duty to disclose, or, perhaps, as to matters presumed to be known to the insurer. These propositions are unsupportable.

English law and usage on waiver is set forth in 10 *British Shipping Laws* (Arnould, Marine Insurance, 15th ed., 1961) § 630-1, and is clearly summarized by the Court of Appeals:

> "[Petitioners] place great reliance upon *Mann, MacNeal & Steeves v. Capital & Counties Ins. Co.* (1921) 2 KB 300—the case cited and discussed by Arnould in § 631, *supra*. In *Mann* no absolute rule as to disclosure was established. The disclosure of the nature of the cargo (even when it is iron drums of gasoline[9] as it was there) is waived where there is proof the cargo 'is an ordinary and common form of merchandise' (p. 306)

[9] (Footnote supplied.) The reason drummed gasoline was safe under *Mann* facts, as contrasted with the bulk gasoline under PACIFIC QUEEN facts, *supra*, is well summarized in a concurring opinion:

> "* * * [T]he drums containing the gasoline are substantial things, welded and not riveted, and strengthened against crushing by stiff rims, with the hole for filling fitted with a screw cap, and jointed and *tightened up so that no gasoline can leak out* * * * [I]t was probably less and certainly not more dangerous than were the claret staves [for wine]." *Mann, supra*, 2 K.B. at 316-17 (Emphasis added).

In contrast in the PACIFIC QUEEN, petitioners knowingly created the extraordinary hazards of installing four exposed discharge valves at the bottom of 8,000 gallons of bulk gasoline "in or near a passageway where ship's equipment, fishing gear and personnel frequently passed" and from which gasoline not only could leak, but in fact did so with the resulting calamity (OP. 5A; 10A, fn. 10, Finding IX-D).

which can be carried as safely as the common run of cargo. 'The question whether disclosure must be made or not is one of degree, depending upon the circumstances of each particular case.' (P. 307.) But [petitioners] do not explain the above italicized language in the quotation from Arnould, *supra*, § 631.[10] Further the failure to disclose here relates to a *part of the ship*—the altered method of handling gasoline; not to the *cargo* itself."[11]

" * * *

"[Petitioners] were under a duty to advise the surveyors of alterations requiring especial examination. This court has previously so held. * * * *States Steamship Company v. United States*, 1958, 259 F.2d 458 at 469 * * *." (OP. 15A-16A)[12]

Accord: *Leathem Smith-Putnam Nav. Co. v. National Union Fire Ins. Co.*, 96 F.2d 923 (CA 7, 1938);

Sun Mutual Ins. Co. v. Ocean Ins. Co., 107 U.S. 485 (1882);

Chicago S.S. Line v. United States Lloyds, 12 F.2d 733 (CA 7, 1920);

Porter v. Bank Line, 17 F.2d 513 (E.D. Va., 1927).

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[10] (Footnote supplied.) OP. 15A: The Court of Appeals quoted with its own emphasis from Arnould:

"* * * the rule *is satisfied if the assured discloses sufficient to call the attention of the Underwriters so that they can see if they require further information, they ought to ask for it* * * * (Arnould, *supra*, § 631) (Emphasis added)" (OP. 15A).

[11] (Footnote supplied.) *Kreglinger & Fernau, Ltd. v. Irish National Ins. Co., Ltd.* [1956] I. R. 116, also cited by petitioners (Pet. 11) for the proposition that respondents were sufficiently informed of the added risk, did not arise under the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, is not an English case, and is clearly distinguishable upon its facts.

[12] Petitioners cite *Frangos v. Sun Insurance Office, Ltd.* [1934] 49 Ll. L. Rep. 354, for the legal effect of a survey (Pet. 11). The court there found that an owner could reasonably be satisfied as to the seaworthiness of his ship when a surveyor approved it after failing to find a latent condition possibly affecting seaworthiness and unknown to the owner. No question of disclosure was involved there; here the condition was not only known to the owners, but was caused by them as well as concealed from the surveyor, petitioners' broker, and respondents.

Petitioners' only other contention on waiver is a short excerpt from Lord Mansfield's opinion in *Carter v. Boehm*, [1776] 3 Burr 1905, 97 E. R. 1162 (Pet. 10). It can be put into better context by a slightly longer quotation from that case found at 97 E. R. p. 1164:

> "The special facts, upon which the contingent chance is to be computed, lie most commonly in the knowledge of the insured only; the under-writer trusts to his representation, and proceeds upon confidence that he does not keep back any circumstance in his knowledge, to mislead the under-writer into a belief that the circumstance does not exist, and to induce and to estimate the risque as if it did not exist.
>
> "The keeping back of such circumstance is a fraud, and therefore the policy is void. Although the suppression should happen through mistake, without any fraudulent intention; yet still the under-writer is deceived, and the policy is void; because the risque run is really different from the risque understood and intended to be run, at the time of the agreement. • • •
>
> "There are many matters as to which the insured may be innocently silent—he need not mention what the underwriter knows—Scientia utrinque pares contranentes facit.
>
> "An under-writer can not insist that the policy is void, because the insured did not tell him what he actually knew; what way soever he came to the knowledge.
>
> "The insured need not mention what the under-writer ought to know; what he takes upon himself the knowledge of; or what he waives being informed of."

Petitioners claim that respondents waived disclosure of their dangerous and unprecedented alterations to the PACIFIC QUEEN because: (a) in 1955, or more than two years before the casualty, another group of underwriters, only some of whom later participated in insuring the PACIFIC QUEEN in 1957, knew, by reason of a 1955 survey, that the PACIFIC QUEEN had been equipped to carry 3000 gallons of gasoline by "a very safe" system (OP. 2A); and (b) in 1957, before the vessel loaded any bulk gasoline, the surveyor may have

been aboard the vessel after the crucial changes had been made in its gasoline storage capacity and methods; but, if so, he was not informed of these dangerous changes and could not have discovered them in the exercise of due diligence (OP. 11A, fn. 10, Finding X E; OP. 17A).

The short answer to petitioners' argument on the scope of English law of presumed knowledge is summarized by the Court of Appeals, quoting in part from 10 *British Shipping Laws* (Arnould, 15th ed., 1961) § 622-3:

> • • •
>
> "'On the principle that the assured need not disclose what the Underwriter ought to know, it has been decided in several cases that facts comprised in the general usages of the trade need not be communicated to the Underwriter; . . . But to dispense with communication of anything done according to usage, *such usage must be generally and universally known to all engaged in the trade*.' (Arnould *supra*, § 623) (Emphasis added.) • • •" (OP. 13A-14A).

Concluding, the Court of Appeals rejected petitioners' argument by applying this established law to the facts in this case:

> "The district court here found as a fact (a fact [petitioners] seemingly do not controvert) that the altered method of handling gasoline was not a usage 'generally and universally known to all engaged in the trade,' but, on the contrary, found that it was unique—it was 'not in common usage, but was exclusive to the Pacific Queen.' • • • [Petitioners'] reliance on the exception to require disclosure based upon usage is misplaced." (OP. 14A)

Thus, under English law and usage there could be no waiver of this unique hazard which was concealed and not disclosed. Therefore, these insurance policies never attached and were void *ab initio* because petitioners did not disclose material increases in the risk.

After the loss, and following the raising of the vessel,

when respondents had an opportunity to discover the material concealment, they repaid the full premium of $11,372.50 into the registry of the Court to be returned to petitioners, less costs, upon final adjudication (R. 289).

The finding of concealment of material increases in the risk is sufficient standing alone to support the judgments below. Marine Ins. Act, 1906, § 18; *infra*, App. B, p. 38B. It presents no factual or legal question warranting review by this Court of two courts' concurrent findings and conclusions. For this reason alone, the Petition for Certiorari should be denied.

II. The *Pacific Queen* Was Sent to Sea in an Unseaworthy Condition with the Privity of Petitioners on Numerous Occasions

Petitioners apparently do not now challenge the finding that the PACIFIC QUEEN was unseaworthy each time she was sent to sea during her 1957 season because of the hazardous increase in gasoline carrying capacity; and, to a far greater extent, by reason of the hazardous change in methods of carriage, storage and discharge of bulk gasoline. Petitioners also do not contest that the owners and manager of the PACIFIC QUEEN were privy to this unseaworthiness, because they had ordered the changes made, knew of the resulting hazards, and neglected to take reasonable precautions to correct them (OP. 18A, fn. 13, Finding XI-A; 12A, fn. 10, Finding X-I; 10A, fn. 10, Finding IX-C and D; 17A; 19A).

Nor do petitioners specifically challenge the finding that the spill of five to six hundred gallons of gasoline at Friday Harbor, Washington, caused a further and even more hazardous degree of unseaworthiness (R. 249 at 265-267, Finding XI-C).

Petitioners' only claim is that unseaworthiness *before* the Friday Harbor spill was waived by an earlier survey; and that the owners and managers of the PACIFIC QUEEN were not

"*privy*" to the additional unseaworthiness resulting from the Friday Harbor spill.

The relevant portion of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, on unseaworthiness, § 39 (5), is quoted by the Court of Appeals at OP. 19A, and provides:

> "In a time policy there is no implied warranty that the ship shall be seaworthy at any stage of the adventure, *but where, with privity of the assured, the ship is sent to sea in an unseaworthy state, the insurer is not liable for any loss attributable to unseaworthiness.*" (Emphasis added)

This applicable English law does not support petitioners' contention that unseaworthiness resulting from a unique, undisclosed and extraordinarily hazardous change in the method of handling bulk gasoline can be waived where owners in requesting a survey failed to disclose to the surveyor, or to their brokers, or to their underwriters, their intended or accomplished hazardous alterations which could not have been discovered "by reasonable inspection" (OP. 15A; 11A, fn. 10, Finding X-D).

A warranty of seaworthiness may not be waived except by an affirmative act on the part of the underwriter, such as one undertaken with actual knowledge of the facts of unseaworthiness in question. 10 *British Shipping Laws* (Arnould, 15th ed., 1961) § 699. It is *not* waived by a survey which is "merely an extra precaution for the underwriter." Eldridge, *Marine Policies* (3rd ed., 1938) 132, citing *Sleigh v. Tyser*, [1900] 2 Q.B. 333.

Petitioners' only other argument is that the second independent phase of unseaworthiness resulting from an inadequate cleanup of the Friday Harbor gasoline spill came into being without the "privity" of the assured owners and managers as that term is used in the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, § 39 (5). They base this point solely on *dicta* in a lower court English case, *Cia Naviera Vascongada v. British & Foreign*

Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. [1936] 54 Ll. L.L. Rep. 35, 58 (Pet. 12). There the court held that a manager was not "privy" to an ensuing unseaworthiness where he was over 1,000 miles away from a port where the accident causing unseaworthiness occurred, and where he had no knowledge whatsoever of the accident.

Such *dicta* of *Vascongada* (Pet. 12) is irrelevant. In PACIFIC QUEEN, the owners *directed* the original and continuing unseaworthiness by their own acts of altering a "very safe" (OP. 2A) gasoline system into an extraordinarily hazardous system (OP. 10A, fn. 10, Finding IX-D [sic]). In addition, the managing owner was at the scene and had actual knowledge of the resulting gasoline spill. This spill of 500 to 600 gallons, resulting in some three to three and one-half feet of bulk gasoline filling the interior of the vessel (T. P. 1138), was inspected by the managing owner on the day it occurred. He treated this extremely dangerous situation with "casual indifference" and gave no orders either requiring an adequate clean-up or towards preventing such further spills, or chemical gas free tests, or other standard precautions. Both courts found on uncontroverted evidence that he failed to exercise due diligence to render his vessel seaworthy (OP. 24A-25A, fn. 17, Finding XIII).

The PACIFIC QUEEN facts are much closer to a similar case affirmed by the House of Lords, *Lennard's Carrying Co. v. Asiatic Petroleum Co.*, [1914] 1 KB 419; aff'd. [1915] AC 705. There the question was whether a loss had happened without "actual fault or privity" under the applicable English statute. The parallels to PACIFIC QUEEN are striking. A cargo of benzine on board was lost by a fire caused by unseaworthiness of the ship due to defective boilers. The owners were one limited company. The managing owners were another such company. The managing director of the latter company was a registered managing owner who took the active management of the ship on behalf of the owners. He

knew, or had the means of knowing, the defective condition of the boilers, but he gave no special instructions to the captain or chief engineer regarding their supervision and took no steps to prevent the ship putting to sea with her boilers in an unseaworthy condition. The decision in the Court of Appeal, [1914] 1 KB 419 at 441, held:

> "* * * with proper diligence the owners might have prevented all this and must have known the special perils attending the transport of benzine in bulk, for it was their trade. When these owners ask this Court to find that the fire, which naturally ensued in the circumstances, 'happened without their actual fault or privity,' I refuse."

The House of Lords affirmed, holding the owners had failed to discharge their burden of proving that the loss "happened without their actual fault or privity" [1915] A.C. 705.

Petitioners cite the dissent in an Irish case, (Pet. 14), *Ashworth v. General Accident, etc. Assurance Corporation* [1955] I.R. 268, 278, which arose under § 39(5) of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906. The majority opinion strongly favors respondents. There the vessel, like the PACIFIC QUEEN, also operated in successive stages. She left her final port in an unseaworthy condition, with the owner having full knowledge of a condition which two courts found rendered her unseaworthy. To the owners' claim that she was not sent to sea "with the privity of the assured," the trial court stated, at [1955] I.R. 268, 279:

> "Captain Ashworth was, I am satisfied, fully aware of the ship's condition * * *. I have found that she was then unseaworthy. In my opinion, it is unnecessary to inquire any further into Captain Ashworth's state of mind. I do not think I have to determine whether he posed himself, and answered in the affirmative, the question: Is the ship unseaworthy? He had all the materials necessary to form a judgment. He was privy to the state of things which rendered the ship unseaworthy and he was privy to her going to sea in that state."

Despite this holding, the Trial Court found in favor of insured on another issue, but the Supreme Court of Ireland, in reversing on the other issue, agreed with the trial court's finding on "privity" [1955] I.R. 282.

The definition of "privity" was summed up by the Court of Appeal in *The M. Thomas & Son Shipping Co. (Ltd.) v. The London and Provincial Marine and General Insurance Co. (Ltd.)*, [1914] 30 T.L.R. 595, at p. 596, where it held:

> "• • • the words in section 39, sub-section 5, of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, 'Where with the privity of the assured the ship is sent to sea in an unseaworthy state,' meant where the owner was privy to the state of things which in fact rendered the ship unseaworthy, and not where he formed the opinion that she was unseaworthy."

This appellate decision is the law of England, as the Court of Appeals held (OP. 21A).

It is submitted on the facts as found and on applicable law the insurance is void under the § 39 (5) of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, because the PACIFIC QUEEN was repeatedly sent to sea from the beginning of the 1957 season until her final tragic explosion in an unseaworthy condition with the privity of the assured.

Thus, again, on this separate ground the judgments below are correct; and the Petition presents no question warranting certiorari.

III. The Loss of the *Pacific Queen* Resulted from Want of Due Diligence on the Part of Petitioners

The District Court found that the owners and manager of the PACIFIC QUEEN failed to use due diligence to prevent the loss of the PACIFIC QUEEN by explosion, both by reason of conversion of the gasoline discharge facilities in such fashion as to become totally improper and unsafe, and in failing to use due diligence in cleaning up the Friday Harbor gasoline spill, or in purging the vessel and its structures of gaso-

line and gasoline vapors. The Court of Appeals agreed. (OP. 4A-7A; 24A-25A; 24A, fn. 17, Finding XIII A).

Petitioners, having chiefly argued to the Court of Appeals that the loss of the PACIFIC QUEEN was covered by the Inchmaree Clause because there was no want of due diligence now appear to shift their ground to contend primarily that the loss was covered by the general "perils of the sea" clause of the marine insurance policies, to which due diligence is not applicable. Now, they contend that neither court below should have "skipped by the 'perils of the sea' clause" to reach the Inchmaree clause (Pet. 16).

But the District Court specifically concluded that the Inchmaree clause

> ". . . is the only clause in the insurance policies here at issue under which the assured are insured against loss by explosion"

and that that clause was inapplicable because petitioners failed to use due diligence to prevent the explosion. (Conclusion VI C., R. 283). The Court of Appeals on careful review concurred (OP. 24A-25A).

Under English law and usage, the general "perils of the sea clause" does not apply to explosions. 10 *British Shipping Laws* (Arnould, 15th ed., 1961) § 819. *Thames & Mersey Mar. Ins. Co. v. Hamilton Fraser & Co.*, [1887] 12 App. Cas. 484; Eldridge, Marine Policies (3rd ed., London) 146-7.[13]

After *Thames & Mersey Mar. Ins. Co. v. Hamilton Fraser & Co.*, [1887] 12 App. Cas. 484, marine insurance coverage was broadened by the Inchmaree clause. Eldridge, *Marine*

[13] It should be noted that *Thames & Mersey Mar. Ins. Co. v. Hamilton Fraser & Co.*, [1887] 12 App. Cas. 484, the famous case which gave the Inchmaree clause its name, was cited by petitioners only for an irrelevant point (Pet. 14); but that the House of Lords in that case disapproved a lower court's earlier opinion in *West India Telegraph Co. v. Home and Colonial Insurance Co.*, [1880] 6 QB 51, which petitioners rely upon for their main argument on this point. (Pet. 14). See 10 British Shipping Laws, Arnould, Marine Insurance (1961) § 852.

Policies (3rd ed., 1938) 134; *Saskatchewan Government Ins. Office v. Spot Pack*, 242 F.(2d) 385 (C.A. 5, 1957). The Inchmaree clause is quoted [illegible]OP. 22A. Its coverage for "explosions" expressly [illegible]ovides it does not apply to explosions that result from want of due diligence by the owners and managers of the vessel. Cf. Dover, *Analysis of Marine and other Insurance Clauses*, (1950) 33-34.

The Inchmaree clause does broaden coverage for a variety of risks not embraced within the general "perils of the sea" clause, but only subject to the requirement of due diligence by the owners or manager. If desired, broader coverage could have been purchased had the owners of PACIFIC QUEEN wished to pay for it. *Chorley & Giles, Shipping Law* (4th ed., London, 1959), pp. 323-324.

Nor is Section 55 (2) of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, pertinent, because its key is liability for "a peril insured against." As just illustrated, explosions are not a "peril insured against" except under Inchmaree, where the criterion of due diligence is an express condition precedent to recovery.

Thus, on this third, separate and independent defense, the concurrent findings of two courts correctly applies English law and usage under Inchmaree to the facts of PACIFIC QUEEN. There is therefore no issue warranting further review by this Court of a Petition for Certiorari.

IV.

The Affirmance by the Court of Appeals of the District Court's Denial of Trial by Jury Was Correct

After destruction of the PACIFIC QUEEN, petitioners brought two successive identical suits against two groups of Underwriters to recover insurance for one loss of one vessel (R. 3, 61). In September 1958 (cf. R. 141, fn. 3), petitioners sued in the State Court, *Pacific Queen Fisheries v. Symes, et al.* (now Court of Appeals Cause No. 17460).

Defendants, *Symes, et al.*, are Underwriters at Lloyds (London) whose policy insured 50% of the risk. Since diversity and jurisdictional amount were established, defendants removed this cause to the District Court, but it was later remanded because the Court interpreted an endorsement to the Lloyds' policies as a waiver of the right of removal.

Some eighteen months later in May 1960 (R. 68), petitioners brought a second suit, also in the State Court, *Pacific Queen Fisheries v. Atlas, et al.* (Court of Appeals No. 17461). Defendants, *Atlas, et al.*, are several other English and American Underwriters whose policies insured the remaining 50% of the risk. Defendants also removed this cause to the District Court since diversity and jurisdictional amount were likewise established. Remand was denied (R. 128) as there were no endorsements to these policies which waived the right of removal. Thus, defendants had an absolute right to remove this separate *Atlas* suit (R. 249, 279). Petitioners do not contend otherwise.

Prior to removal, petitioners had made no jury demand in *Atlas*. Some two months after removal and answer, petitioners purported to make jury demand in the District Court, but it was denied because not timely (OP. 34A; R. 251, Finding III; 298 at 312; 1709). Thereafter, petitioners moved for a jury trial in *Atlas* under the discretionary provision of F.R. Civ. P. 39(b) (R. 1695, 1710). The District Court, after comprehensive briefs and extended argument, denied this for want of sufficient grounds (R. 224; 1695, 1697-1768). On appeal, the Court of Appeals affirmed that "the district court neither committed error nor abused its discretion" (OP. 34A). Petitioners do not now contend otherwise.

Their present contention is limited to a claim of right to jury trial in *Symes* which they assert they had perfected while that case was pending in the State Court. Petitioners' contention is insupportable on two separate grounds:

(1) No right to jury trial in *Symes* was ever perfected in the State Court; and (2) no claim of right to jury in *Symes* was ever raised in the District Court.

(1) No right to jury trial in *Symes* was ever perfected in the State Court.

The right to a jury trial in Washington is governed by RCW 4.44.100 (Pet. 39a), which is similar to F.R. Civ. P. 38, 39 (Pet. 36a-38a). As the Court of Appeals correctly held, that statute:

> " • • • expressly requires that a statement electing jury trial be both served *and* filed *and* a jury fee paid. Unless such statement 'is filed . . . parties shall be deemed to have waived trial by jury and *consented* to trial by court.' " (OP. 34A; Emphasis and deletion by the Court of Appeals).

In *Hoye v. Century Builders*, 52 Wn.(2d) 830, 832; 329 P.(2d) 474, 476 (1958), citing other Washington cases, the State Supreme Court expressly held:

> "Unless such jury demand is *timely filed*, trial by jury is waived." (Emphasis supplied)

Petitioners concede no jury demand was ever *filed* in *Symes* in either court (Pet. 17). Instead they now contend that a document which is not of record herein, and, in any event, is not claimed to have been a jury statement or demand, and which they concede did not bear the *Symes* caption or number, and was never filed in *Symes*, should have entitled them to a jury (Pet. 17). All these defects petitioners now seek to cure by an *ex parte* affidavit obtained from the State Court judge long after the District Court trial (R. 1770). That affidavit, contrary to petitioners' claim (Pet. 17), does not "clearly state that such a right was perfected" in the State Court in *Symes*; nor does it in any way otherwise relieve petitioners from the statutory requirement of filing a jury demand. Consequently, no right to jury was ever perfected in *Symes* while pending in the State Court.

(2) No claim of right to jury in *Symes* was ever raised in the District Court.

While *Symes* was still pending on preliminary motions in the State Court (R. 1775), the District Court had on September 8, 1960, assigned *Atlas* for trial to commence October 31, 1960 (R. 1696).

On September 26, 1960, the District Court convened to hear argument on petitioners' motion, noted above, that the Court should grant a discretionary jury trial in *Atlas* under F.R. Civ. P. 39. On that date it was apparent that the *Symes* case could not be reached for trial in the State Court until after the *Atlas* trial in the District Court was concluded (R. 1717). Counsel for plaintiff-petitioners prefaced his argument to the District Court by orally moving:

> "Right off, your Honor, I think I should like to move the Court that we *remove (sic)* our State Court case [*Symes*] to this Court and consolidate the two [*Symes* with *Atlas*] for purposes of trial. * * * [A] week or ten days ago Judge Johnson [of the State Court] set a trial date [in *Symes*] later in November, and I see no point in leaving anything in doubt. Let us put them all in the one basket, * * * " (R. 1717).

This oral motion was without notice; but respondents acceded on the express condition that it be "without prejudice to any bearing on the issues [in *Atlas*]" and "reserving any different issues that may arise" (R. 1718). The Court stated it would:

> " * * * treat each case on whatever issues there are in it * * *. Each case has to be tried on its own issues." (R. 1718-9)

There being requisite diversity and amount in *Symes* (R. 249-251), and "the return of the remanded case" being agreeable to the Court (R. 1718), it entered an order to that effect (R. 223). Petitioners then immediately proceeded with their argument for a discretionary jury trial in *Atlas* under F.R. Civ. P. 39 (b). Not once in more than 50 pages of argument (R. 1716-1768) did petitioners suggest or in any way infer that they were entitled to jury trial of *Symes*. All of this happened on September 26, 1960.

On September 28, 1960, the Court denied petitioners' Rule 39 (b) motion for jury trial in *Atlas* (R. 224).

A month later, on October 28, 1960, petitioners in order to effect the retransfer of *Symes* to the District Court, applied to the State Court for leave to return "the entire files" in *Symes* to the District Court (R. 46-7). No jury demand was included in those "entire files" because none had ever been filed. On this same day, or just three days before the *Atlas* trial was scheduled to commence, petitioners also proposed a stipulation that the District Court's Pretrial Order theretofore entered in *Atlas* and "*all supplements or amendments thereto*" would apply to *Symes* except as either party should "*indicate verbally or in writing*" that any provision of that Pretrial Order would not be entirely applicable to *Symes* (OP. 34A, fn. 24; R. 48-50). Petitioners then proceeded to try both the *Atlas* and *Symes* cases to the District Court without further comment. At no point before, during or after a 17-day trial did petitioners ever "*indicate verbally or in writing*" any claim of being deprived of a right to jury in *Symes* (T.P. 1-1519; R. 1-1691).

Petitioners' proposal before trial of *Atlas* that the remanded *Symes* case be returned to the District Court may have been unusual but petitioners can hardly now complain since this procedure was on their own initiative and on their own application to retransfer their pending State Court case to the District Court, which had requisite jurisdiction.

Throughout all of these procedural steps, petitioners never raised the issue of any right to jury trial in *Symes*. They did not raise this issue at the time of their oral motion to the District Court to have *Symes* returned. They did not raise this issue by ever filing a jury demand in *Symes* in the District Court. They did not raise this issue when they requested that the "entire files" in *Symes* be transferred to the District Court; and no document in those files could have alerted either the Clerk, or the Court, or the

respondents, to this issue. Nor did they raise this issue when they proposed the stipulation making the *Atlas* Pretrial Order applicable to *Symes*. This issue was never raised during the long trial, including the Court's view of the hulk as she then lay (*supra* 4, 5, fn. 3); nor during extensive post-trial proceedings, nor by any challenge to Finding of Fact III that:

> "Trial was to the Court. A jury trial was tardily asked in [*Atlas*], but was held to have been waived because the demand was not timely. No jury trial was demanded in [*Symes*]. At plaintiffs' request the two cases were consolidated for trial." (R. 251)

Obviously, any newly claimed right to jury trial of *Symes* as to which petitioners were so persistently silent was waived. Hence, the conclusion of the Court of Appeals that:

> "The District Court neither committed error nor abused its discretion" (OP. 34A)

is abundantly supported by the record.

The cases petitioners cite (Pet. 17) under F.R. Civ. P. 81(c) are not relevant. They merely hold that where a right to jury trial is perfected in a State Court there is no necessity of making a new jury demand after removal. Whatever possible relevance Rule 81(c) could have to the anomalous circumstance where a *plaintiff* seeks to "remove" (R. 1717) a pending State Court case to the District Court, cf. *Shamrock Oil Corp. v. Sheets*, 313 U.S. 100, 103-08 (1941), it can provide petitioners no support where no such right was ever perfected. Respondents do not question the constitutional basis of jury trial asserted by petitioners (Pet. 18); but this Court's rules likewise recognize waiver of that right where a jury demand is not "*timely and properly demanded.*" *Dairy Queen v. Wood*, 369 U.S. 469, 473 (1962); F.R. Civ. P. 38 and 39; OP. 26A.

Having on their own volition sought consolidation of *Symes* with *Atlas* for trial to the Court and having fairly lost both cases petitioners now belatedly as an "after-

thought" seek to "retrieve a position that was forsaken." Cf. *Francis v. Southern Pacific Co.*, 333 U.S. 445, 451 (1948). The Court of Appeals considered petitioners' jury claims at greater length than they believed were deserved (OP. 30A-34A) and concluded that no error was committed.

The jury claim which petitioners now seek to assert presents no constitutional question, nor any question of conflict between State and Federal law, nor any question of issues triable by jury. It is purely a matter of mechanics which was correctly handled by the District Court and affirmed by the Court of Appeals. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted this matter does not merit the time and consideration of this Court.

CONCLUSION

These cases present no question warranting certiorari. Their only importance is to the litigants on their own facts. Every factual, legal and procedural issue has been unanimously agreed upon by both courts below.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted the Petition should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 31, 1963

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Albert E. Stephan, a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and of counsel for respondents, L. SYMES, et al., and ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY, et al., hereby certify that on the 31st day of January, 1963, I served three copies of the foregoing Brief in Opposition on Wilbur E. Dow, Jr., Esq., and W. Shelby Coates, Jr., Esq., of Dow & Stonebridge, 80 Broad Street, New York 4, New York, by mailing the same to them at said address in a duly addressed envelope with first class airmail postage prepaid; said attorneys being all of counsel for the petitioners in the foregoing cases.

ALBERT E. STEPHAN

15th Floor, Hoge Building
Seattle 4, Washington

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

OPINION OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

APPENDIX B

PERTINENT TEXT OF MARINE INSURANCE ACT, 1906

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, et al., *Appellants*, vs. L. SYMES, et al., *Appellees*.	No. 17,460
PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, et al., *Appellants*, vs. ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY, et al., *Appellees*.	No. 17,461 Aug. 3, 1962

Appeals from the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Southern Division.

Before: POPE, BARNES and HAMLEY Circuit Judges

BARNES, Circuit Judge:

This is a consolidated appeal taken after trial in the United States District Court in which judgment was entered for appellee insurance companies holding them exonerated from liability on certain contracts of insurance. Appeal No. 17,460 was formerly No. 2348 in the district court and was originally filed in the Superior Court for the State of Washington from which it was removed to the district court only to be remanded back to the State court. Appeal No. 17,461 was formerly No. 2543 in the district court; it was originally filed in the Superior Court for the State of Washington from which it was removed to the district court and a motion to remand was denied. After removal of No. 17,461 to the district court, appellants stipulated the then State court case could be retransferred to the Federal court, and moved to consolidate No. 2348 with No. 2543. The

motion was granted and the two cases consolidated for trial. Diversity of citizenship existing, and an amount in controversy exceeding $10,000, the district court had jurisdiction to hear the consolidated cases under the provisions of Sections 1332 and 1441(a) of Title 28, United States Code.

Judgment for appellees in both cases was entered March 23, 1961. Timely notice of appeal was filed. This court has jurisdiction to review the judgment entered below under the provisions of Sections 1291 and 1294(1) of Title 28, United States Code.

Both actions were brought by appellants to recover from appellee insurance underwriters on contracts for marine insurance for loss and damage resulting from the total constructive loss of appellants' diesel powered fishing vessel, the Pacific Queen, owned by Pacific Queen Fisheries, a partnership.[1]

The Pacific Queen was built in 1943 for the Navy. The vessel had a wooden hull and structure with steel decks and deckhouse; she was 988 gross tons, 672 net tons, 173 feet in length, 37 feet in width, 18.8 feet in depth, and propelled by 1600 HP. twin-screw diesel engines. Built for Navy salvage operations, she had been outfitted with two 1500 gallon gasoline tanks which were equipped with "a very safe" aqua or hydraulic system which dispensed gasoline by injecting water through interior piping into the tanks (thus forcing the gasoline of lighter specific gravity to rise) thereby transferring the gasoline through permanent piping to pumps and discharge valves, *located above deck.*

In 1948 the Pacific Queen was bought as war surplus by an individual who resold her to a corporation then controlled by appellant Breskovich. The corporation then sold the vessel to appellants, or their predecessors in interest.

The Pacific Queen became a total constructive loss on September 17, 1957 because of a violent explosion. Immediately thereafter, in the regular course of its official duties, the Coast Guard made a full investigation. The transcript of the Coast Guard's

[1]Hereinafter the term "appellants" will be used to describe all plaintiffs below (and appellants here) unless some special interest or issue requires a specific name to be used. Appellees (all underwriters of marine insurance for the Pacific Queen, defendants below) will be referred to as "appellees" unless a more specific designation is required.

hearing, its detailed findings and conclusions, recommendations and official action, were offered into evidence by appellants and admitted *without objection*. The district court found the Coast Guard's findings and conclusions to be true and incorporated them by reference and adopted them into its own findings of fact.

Beginning in 1950, appellants operated the Pacific Queen between Puget Sound and Bristol Bay, Alaska, as a refrigerated vessel to freeze and transport catches of salmon from Alaska to ports on Puget Sound. In 1951 regulations which prior thereto had prohibited power-driven fishing boats in Bristol Bay, as a fish conservation measure, were relaxed and power boats (*e.g.*, gillnetters) up to thirty-two feet in length were permitted. Many of the gillnetters are powered by gasoline; others are powered by diesel fuel. Both types of fuel may be obtained from various sources in Alaska.

During the years beginning 1950, appellants insured the vessel with various insurance companies, including some but not all of the respective appellees which insured her in 1954.

On various occasions between 1950 and 1957, before each year's fishing season began, appellants, through a broker,[2] requested that the vessel be surveyed by the Board of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco, or by United States Salvage Association. On other occasions during this period appellants requested through a broker, other well recognized and competent surveyors to survey the vessel. This was done in 1950 by Alexander Gow, Inc., and in 1953 by Captain Adrian Raynaud, but neither surveyor reported the existence of any gasoline or gasoline tank capacity aboard the Pacific Queen.[3]

On or about May 3, 1955, Hansen & Rowland, acting as broker for appellants, requested United States Salvage Association to make a condition survey of the Pacific Queen. One Edward Marquat, an experienced surveyor, since deceased, was assigned

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[2]Appellants selected, from time to time, different brokers. See Finding of Fact VIII. D., R. 256.

[3]In 1949, pursuant to Coast Guard orders when the vessel was chartered to carry cargo to Hawaii, the Navy's aqua system for transporting and dispensing gasoline from the vessel's two aft gasoline tanks was blanked off and disconnected, and the two tanks were filled with water.

to the task. He made an exceptionally careful and meticulous survey. His condition report (six single-spaced pages) is dated May 13, 1955. With respect to gasoline, his report read in full text:

> "Fuel and Water Capacities:
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | Fuel | 49,000 gallons |
> | Water | 14,000 " |
> | Gas | 3,000 " |
>
> (Gasoline tanks under deck aft, proper filling lines and vents to atmosphere)."

The court found Pacific Queen Fisheries knew Marquat's report was the only information appellees had concerning gasoline "because, in 1956, appellant John Vilicich, one of the active partners [experienced in the marine insurance business] asked for and received a copy of the report."

The Pacific Queen did not engage in Alaskan operations in 1956. She remained in lay-up status. On about May 2, 1957, Hansen & Rowland, again acting as appellants' broker, requested United States Salvage Association to make a condition survey. Appellants particularly requested a survey of two newly purchased gillnetters and, incidentally, of the Pacific Queen. J. E. Elkins, an experienced surveyor, made the survey. Elkins' only other survey of this vessel was made in 1949—at which time no gasoline was being carried by the vessel. His report (Exs. 359, 360), dated May 2, 1957, like those of Gow's (in 1950) and Ravnaud's (in 1953), made no reference to gasoline tank capacity, nor to any bulk gasoline carried aboard the vessel. Elkins reported the vessel to be a mothership for gas-powered gillnetters. (Finding of Fact VIII. J., R. 258-259.)[4]

At the time of the explosion on September 17, 1957, the gasoline tank capacity of the Pacific Queen had been increased from 3,000 to 8,000 gallons. This increased gasoline tank capacity was

[4]Until 1951, the small "gill net" fishing boats used in Bristol Bay, Alaska fishing were powered by sail and oars. In 1951, power boats up to thirty-two feet in length were permitted to fish there under regulations of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Gasoline for use on such boats is obtainable in Alaska from various sources, "including tank vessels, scows, barges and shore facilities." (Finding VIII B, R. p. 255.)

accomplished by filling two tanks, theretofore used for diesel fuel, with 5,000 gallons of gasoline. Gasoline is a far more hazardous commodity than diesel oil to use or transport. Appellants inserted below-deck exposed gasoline-discharge valves into fittings that had been designed and used for insertion of permanently secured drainage plugs. These valve replacements were located in or near a passageway where ship's equipment, fishing gear and personnel frequently passed.

These alterations for discharging gasoline adapted by the Pacific Queen were apparently unique to her. Such a system or method of handling and discharging gasoline was not in common usage. It was not used on other vessels in which some of the Pacific Queen's owners had, and have, an interest. There was no positive evidence the same method had ever been used on other vessels.

The appellants accomplished this change in the vessel's gasoline tank capacity (i.e., the increase of gasoline tank capacity from 3,000 to 8,000 gallons by means of the above described alterations) at some date subsequent to the May 13, 1955 Marquat condition survey, and prior to the attachment of insurance on May 24, 1957.

On May 27, 1957, the Pacific Queen departed from Seattle and proceeded to Alaskan water to engage in fishing. She commenced her adventure with the increased gasoline tank capacity and the changed method of piping, valving and internal method of discharge of gasoline described above known to her owners and manager.

After the Pacific Queen returned from Alaska, she shifted to various Puget Sound docks, and with her increased gasoline tank capacity and changed method of piping, valving and internal method of discharge of gasoline as hereinabove described, and with the knowledge of her owners and manager, she then was sent from Seattle to Friday Harbor.

While the Pacific Queen was at Friday Harbor, she had on board approximately 2,000 gallons of gasoline. On September 9, 1957, while at Friday Harbor, 500 to 600 gallons of gasoline were spilled from one of the vessel's tanks in its hold into the interior of the vessel. While appellants minimized the seriousness

of this spillage, the court below believed it was a serious incident. It created great hazards to the ship, life and property. Gasoline from the spillage soaked and impregnated large parts of the wooden hull and structure of the vessel. It was not a sudden spill. It began early in the evening preceding its discovery at 4:00 a.m. by the cook. It lasted at least six hours, probably longer. In the course of the spillage, liquid gasoline and gasoline fumes permeated the lower after portion of the vessel.

The spillage was reported to one of the appellant-owners and manager of the vessel (appellant Mardesich) while he was in Friday Harbor on September 9, 1957. He inspected the vessel but gave no specific orders as to the methods to be used in cleaning her. He did not order any chemical tests to be made to determine if she was gas-free; he did not order the plugging-up of the valves on the other gasoline tanks to prevent similar spills. Nor did he order the discharge of the remaining gasoline from the other tanks.

In an attempt to purge the vessel of gasoline, cold water, sprayed through a hose, was used to wash down the area. After removal of all visible traces of gasoline, the area was again washed down with cold water, and a bilge cleaning solvent was used in an attempt to remove the gasoline from the wooden hull. Portable blowers were used to remove gasoline fumes from the vessel. Then, on the evening of September 10, 1957, the vessel's ventilation blowers were placed into operation to free the vessel from gasoline fumes.

The district court—basing its findings on expert testimony—found the steps taken to purge the vessel of gasoline and gasoline fumes to be inadequate. After the Friday Harbor spill and with the knowledge of the vessel's owners and manager, a plug was put into the valve on *one* of the tanks but no precautions were taken to prevent similar spills from the remaining three tanks. The court found: "All of the plaintiffs' [appellants'] witnesses, including two of the part-owners, who were experienced in the handling of gasoline, agreed that this was a serious want of due diligence." All of appellees' witnesses agreed that it was extraordinarily hazardous to permit a vessel to be in such condition, or to send the vessel to sea in such a condition, and that it might

take a period of weeks before the vessel was sufficiently gas free to operate with safety.

On the evening of September 11, 1957, the Pacific Queen departed from Friday Harbor and proceeded to Seattle. On September 15, 1957, she left Seattle and proceeded to Tacoma where she tied up at "Old Town Dock" at approximately 4:35 P.M.

At approximately 4:00 A.M. on the morning of September 17, 1957, a violent explosion occurred on board the Pacific Queen. Portions of the vessel were hurled several hundred yards away, plate glass windows in the surrounding area were broken, and a distinct jar from the explosion was felt some two miles distant. Witnesses living a few hundred feet from the explosion, who were immediately awakened and could observe it, reported a ball of orange fire and a black smoke present at the time of the explosion—color characteristics consistent only with an explosion of gasoline vapor origin.

The explosion ripped open the vessel's hull planking on the port after side of the engineroom at the turn of the bilge and a large section of the vessel's main deck aft of the superstructure together with brine tanks, hatches manhole covers, a gillnet boat, etc., was blown off, and into the water. A fire *followed*, and the Pacific Queen ultimately settled on the bottom with a ten degree list to the starboard. The source of the explosion's ignition is unknown. It could have been a spark from a cigarette, or a match, or an electric contact, or other accidental source. But, by an "overwhelming preponderance of the evidence," the district court found the constructive total loss of the Pacific Queen was the result of a gasoline explosion.

The district court, sitting without a jury, held appellees free from liability on contracts for insurance against loss on the Pacific Queen—in the total amount of $325,000—which each of the appellees, in varying amounts, had underwritten. From a judgment so holding, appellants take this appeal.

Appellants' opening brief does not specify wherein the findings of fact and conclusions of law are alleged to be erroneous.[5]

[5] As is required by Rule 18(2)(d) of this court, and which this court has repeatedly held must be observed. E.g., **Thys Co. v. Anglo California National Bank**, 1955, 219 F.2d 151.

After having this discrepancy pointed up by appellees in their answering brief, appellants set forth their forty-eight specifications of error in the appendix to their reply brief. Of these, Numbers 1, 3, 14 and 47 have been waived or abandoned.

The principal questions here presented by the forty-four errors specified are whether the district court was clearly erroneous in finding:

1. That appellants concealed from appellees circumstances material to the risk.

2. That the Pacific Queen was, with the privity of appellants, sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition.

3. That the loss and damage to the Pacific Queen resulted from a want of due diligence by the vessel's appellant-owners.

4. That appellants breached their implied warranty that the Pacific Queen's adventure was a lawful one and that, so far as appellants were able to control the matter, the adventure was to be carried out in a lawful manner.

Collateral questions presented are whether the district court was clearly erroneous in holding:

5. That a contractual time bar raised by one appellee was an effective bar to appellants' action.

6. That certain appellants were partners in the Pacific Queen Fisheries.

7. That appellants had not perfected their right to jury trial.

Several preliminary observations should be made. First, in accordance with the intent of the parties as set forth in the certificate of insurance covering the hull,[6] as stipulated by both parties on brief, and as found and held by the district court,[7] English Law and usage governs the substantive law of the instant case. Secondly, it is not incumbent upon *appellees* to persuade this court that the district court's findings of fact are correct; on the contrary, the *appellants* must persuade this court that the district court's findings of fact are, as specified by

[6]Which reads:

"(c) Warranted to be subject to English Law and usage as to liability for and settlement of any and all claims."

[7]R. 224-226, 279-280.

appellants, clearly erroneous.[8] Third, this court must view the evidence in the light most favorable to the party who prevailed below; such a party must be given the benefit of all inferences that may reasonably be drawn from the evidence. The findings of the trial court sitting without a jury must be accepted unless they are clearly erroneous; they cannot be upset if they are supported by substantial evidence.[9]

I

DID APPELLANTS CONCEAL CIRCUMSTANCES MATERIAL TO THE RISK?

Was the district court clearly erroneous in finding—and holding accordingly—that the insurance was void *ab initio* because appellants failed to disclose material increases in the risk caused by the increased gasoline carrying capacity of the Pacific Queen and the extra hazardous methods of carriage of that increased amount of gasoline? We hold it was not.

The district court made careful and voluminous findings.[10]

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[8]Appellants' misconception is implied in the following language at page 5 of their reply brief:

"Appellees, instead of endeavoring to persuade this Court that Pacific Queen's explosion was fueled by gasoline, have merely adopted the Findings of Fact of the District Court on this and all factual questions in the case. . . . Apparently they are under the mistaken impression that Fed. R. Civ. P. No. 52 (a) will pull the laboring oar for them. . . ."

[9]Sherman v. Lawless, 9 Cir., 1962, 298 F.2d 899. See also, Hudson v. Wylie, 9 Cir. 1957, 242 F.2d 435, cert. den. 355 U.S. 828; Lewis Food Co. of Cal. v. Milwaukee Insurance Co., 9 Cir. 1958, 257 F.2d 525; Stacher v. United States, 9 Cir. 1958, 258 F.2d 112, cert. den. 358 U.S. 907.

[10]IX.

"Plaintiffs' Changes in Bulk Gasoline Conditions Aboard the Pacific Queen were Material Increases in the Risk

"A. At the time of the explosion on September 17, 1957, the gasoline tank capacity had been increased from 3,000 to 8,000 gallons. Plaintiffs now contend that, sometime before the Marquat survey of May, 1955, the gasoline tank capacity of the Pacific Queen was increased to 8,000 gallons by filling 2 tanks, theretofore used for diesel fuel, with 5,000 gallons of gasoline; and that certain hazardous alterations, for discharging this gasoline as described below, had already been accomplished.

"B. But any evidence of this is incredible. As recently as June, 1960, at a pre-trial deposition, plaintiffs' counsel stipulated that any such

alterations in gas tank facilities were made some time **after** the end of the 1955 season and before the beginning of the 1957 season. . . . The 1957 season did not begin until May 24, 1957, when 8,000 gallons of gasoline were loaded aboard the Pacific Queen before she sailed to Alaska. In other respects plaintiffs' evidence on this matter was conflicting and obscure. It is impossible to fix the exact date of these changes because the owners failed to come forward with any information until very late, and the information then offered was exceedingly vague and unsatisfactory.

"C. Based upon all of the evidence, the Court finds that, at some date subsequent to the 1955 survey, and prior to the attachment date of the insurances on May 24, 1957, the plaintiff owners and managers of the vessel had increased the gasoline-carrying capacity of the Pacific Queen from approximately 3,000 gallons to 8,000 gallons. This alone was a material increase in the risk which was not disclosed to the Underwriters.

"D. An even greater undisclosed increase in the risk was accomplished at that time by making the following extremely hazardous alterations in the method of discharging gasoline. Plaintiffs inserted interior below-deck exposed gasoline-discharge valves into fittings that had been designed and used for insertion of permanently secured drainage plugs. These valve replacements were located in or near a passageway where ship's equipment, fishing gear and personnel passed.

"D. [sic] The increase in the risk in both particulars is an obvious fact that should have been known to anyone with a minimum of experience or understanding. It was certainly known to the owners of the Pacific Queen, and was virtually admitted by them. The installation of interior below-deck discharge of gasoline through the type of facilities that were provided on the Pacific Queen is so patently an increase in hazard as hardly to require expert testimony. It is impossible to defend as safe or proper such a system of discharge with hand valves located on or near a passageway where ship's equipment, fishing gear and personnel frequently pass back and forth.

"E. This altered method adapted by the Pacific Queen for the handling of gasoline was not in common usage, but was exclusive to the Pacific Queen. It was not even on other vessels in which some of the owners of the Pacific Queen had, and have, an interest. . . .

"X.

"Plaintiffs failed to Disclose these Material Increases in the Risk to Hansen & Rowland or to Defendants

"A. Plaintiff August Mardesich was the Manager of the Pacific Queen in 1957. He was not quartered or employed aboard the vessel in any capacity. He had personal knowledge of the gasoline tank and discharge changes which rendered the vessel extremely hazardous and which

materially increased the risk. Neither he nor any of the other partners disclosed these changed conditions to the Underwriters.

"B. The increased gasoline capacity and the hazardous modifications of the discharge system were not made at a time or under circumstances such as to bring them to either the actual or the constructive notice of the Underwriters.

"C. The owners and managers of the Pacific Queen knew of these changes and did not disclose the increased gasoline capacity, or the altered and hazardous gasoline-discharge methods, to the defendant underwriters or to Hansen & Rowland, who were brokers for the owners, or to the surveyors.

"D. Neither Marquat, now deceased, who made an insurance survey in 1955, nor Elkins, since retired, who made the survey in 1957, knew of the increased gasoline capacity of the unsafe and improper gasoline-discharge facilities at the time of their respective surveys, and there was nothing observable by any reasonable inspection which would have disclosed the changes.

"E. At the time of the surveys by Marquat and Elkins there was nothing in the situation that was observable, by reasonable inspection, which would have disclosed that the owners and managers had made or intended to make the changes in gasoline capacity or discharge facilities which existed at the time of the loss of the Pacific Queen. Plaintiffs' counsel now claims, on brief, that, whenever these changes were made, they were 'a simple job that would not take two men 30 minutes.'

"F. Both of the surveyors are described by everyone who has spoken to them as having been marine surveyors of the highest ability, character and integrity, who would not have overlooked or disregarded anything of the magnitude of the increase in the risk here described if it had been actually conveyed to them. Marquat was particularly meticulous in the survey work that he did. It is inconceivable, and there is no credible evidence to the contrary, that he had, either by any oral statement made to him or by anything that could or should have been seen in making his survey, any knowledge which would have disclosed either the increased gasoline capacity or the change in discharge facilities that existed at the time of the loss.

"G. At the time of the 1957 survey Elkins was asked primarily to survey the new gillnetters, and incidentally 'to take a quick look at the Queen.' No representative of plaintiffs identified himself when Elkins surveyed the Pacific Queen, though Jasprica was present and failed to do so.

"H. Had either of the surveyors, Marquat or Elkins, actually known of the increased gasoline capacity or of the unsafe and improper gasoline-discharge facilities at the time of their respective surveys, they

The Marine Insurance Act, 1906,[11] in part here pertinent, provides:

"17. A contract of marine insurance is a contract based upon the utmost good faith, and, if the utmost good faith be not observed by either party, the contract may be avoided by the other party.

• • •

"18.—(1) . . . the assured must disclose to the insurer, before the contract is concluded, every material circumstance which is known to the assured, and the assured is deemed to know every circumstance which, in the ordinary course of business, ought to be known by him. If the assured fails to make such disclosure, the insurer may avoid the contract.

"(2) Every circumstance is material which would influence the judgment of a prudent insurer in fixing the premium, or determining whether he will take the risk."

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would not only have reported the same in their surveys but would have required correction of the facilities prior to the issuance of insurance.

"I. This loading of gasoline on board and the altered discharge methods were done with the knowledge of plaintiffs' manager and owner, August Mardesich, and of the other partners, including Mr. Barovic, Mr. Breskovich and Mr. Jasprica. The latter occupied several roles as part-owner, chief-engineer and fishing-superintendent.

"J. Each of the changes constituted a material increase in the risk which was concealed from and not disclosed to defendants.

"K. The material increases in the risk arose when the altered gasoline-discharge facilities were installed and gasoline-carrying capacity more than doubled, and such greatly increased quantities loaded on board under such hazardous conditions. At that time, the owners either knew or, in the exercise of the most minimal standards of prudence and care, should have known of the increase in risk by reason both of the increase in carrying capacity of gasoline and, even more emphatically, by reason of the changed gasoline discharge methods to an extremely hazardous below-deck system.

"L. Defendants would not have insured the vessel if plaintiffs or their brokers had disclosed to them any or all of these material increases in the risks."

[11]6Edw. 7, C. 41. This Act is referred to in appellees' brief as appearing in 2 Arnould, Marine Insurance (1954) 1186 ff. Arnould's 15th Edition (1961) takes the new title of "British Shipping Laws—Vols. 9 & 10." The Marine Insurance Act, 1906, appears at 1261 ff.

Appellants contend that they were not under a duty to disclose the increased gasoline tank capacity of their vessel, or the below-deck alterations made to dispense gasoline because (a) appellees must be presumed to have had notice of the changes, even though they might not have had actual notice, and (b) appellees waived disclosure of the changes.

Section 18(3) of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, provides the following exceptions to the duty to disclose:

> "In the absence of inquiry the following circumstances need not be disclosed, namely:
>
> • • •
>
> "(b) Any circumstance which is known or presumed to be known to the insurer. The insurer is presumed to know matters of common notoriety or knowledge, and matters which an insurer in the ordinary course of his business, as such, ought to know;
>
> "(c) Any circumstances as to which information is waived by the insurer. . . ."

These exceptions to the duty of disclosure are discussed in 2 Arnould on Marine Insurance, 15th Ed. (1961), §§ 621-631. After quoting the stilted language of Lord Mansfield in *Carter v. Boehm*, (1766) 3 Burr 1905, it is there said, on the question of what is presumed to be known to the insurer, that:

> "[A]n insurer is presumed to know that it is impossible to make a floating dry-dock as seaworthy as an ordinary ocean-going craft, and is put on inquiry, if he admits seaworthiness, as to the means adopted to strengthen it.
>
> "A knowledge of the political state of the world, of the allegiance of particular countries, of their standing mercantile regulations, of the risk and embarrassment affecting the course of trade contemplated by the insurance, must all necessarily be imputed to the Underwriter, and therefore, need not be disclosed by the assured . . ." (Arnould, *supra*, § 622.)

And, on the question of what ought to be known to an insurer, Arnould states:

"On the principle that the assured need not disclose what the Underwriter ought to know, it has been decided in several cases that facts comprised in the general usages of the trade need not be communicated to the Underwriter; . . . But to dispense with communication of anything done according to usage, *such usage must be generally and universally known to all engaged in the trade.*" (Arnould, *supra*, § 623.). (Emphasis added.) Citing *Tennant* v. *Henderson*, (1813) 1 Dow 324.

The Marine Insurance Act, 1906, Section 18 provides with respect to disclosure:

". . . .

"(4) Whether any particular circumstance, which is not disclosed, be material or not is, in each case, a question of fact."

The district court here found as a fact (a fact appellants seemingly do not controvert) that the altered method of handling gasoline was not a usage "generally and universally known to all engaged in the trade," but, on the contrary, found that it was unique—it was "not in common usage, but was exclusive to the Pacific Queen." Elkins, when making his 1957 survey, had only known the Pacific Queen as a vessel not carrying gasoline. Elkins reported her to be a mothership for gas-operated gillnetters. But, as the district court found, this gave no notice that the Pacific Queen was carrying bulk gasoline, because gasoline and other types of fuel were, and are, available from various sources in Alaska other than the mothership. Appellants' reliance on the exception to require disclosure based upon usage is misplaced.

As to the exception to the duty of disclosure based on waiver, Arnould states:

"It was . . . held by the Court of Appeals [in *Mann, MacNeal & Steeves* v. *Capital & Counties Ins. Co.*] that information that the cargo was of a hazardous character had been waived. Bankes L.J. said that an Underwriter waives any information in relation to what may be fairly described as a parcel or ordinary cargo of lawful merchan-

dise, and also, quoting Lord Esher M.R. in *Asfar v. Blundell* that the rule *is satisfied if the assured discloses sufficient to call the attention of the Underwriters so that they can see if they require further information, they ought to ask for it. . . .*" (Arnould, *supra*, § 631.) (Emphasis added.)

And further:

"Atkins, L.J. with whose judgment on this point Younger, L.J. agreed, said that included in the risk an Underwriter takes is the risk that there is an already concluded engagement for hazardous cargo, just as there is the countervailing possibility he runs no risk of a hazardous cargo at all, by reason of an absolutely safe cargo having been agreed." *(Id.)*

Appellants place great reliance upon *Mann, MacNeal & Steeves v. Capital & Counties Ins. Co.* (1921) 2 KB 300—the case cited and discussed by Arnould in § 631, *supra*. In *Mann* no absolute rule as to disclosure was established. The disclosure of the nature of the cargo (even when it is iron drums of gasoline, as it was there) is waived where there is proof the cargo "is an ordinary and common form of merchandise" (p. 306) which can be carried as safely as the common run of cargo. "The question whether disclosure must be made or not is one of degree, depending upon the circumstances of each particular case." (p. 307.) But appellants do not explain the above italicized language in the quotation from Arnould, *supra*, § 631. Further the failure to disclose here relates to a *part of the ship*—the altered method of handling gasoline; not to the *cargo* itself.

Appellants next contend that appellees waived disclosure of the increased gasoline tank capacity and the altered methods of gasoline discharge because surveys had been made. But the district court found that appellants did not disclose the altered method of handling gasoline to the surveyors; that the surveyors did not know of these alterations; that the altered methods were exclusive to the Pacific Queen; that they were not common usage; and that to make such alterations was a simple job that would take two men thirty minutes to perform. Further, the district court found that the alterations were not observable by reasonable inspection.

Appellants were under a duty to advise the surveyors of alterations requiring especial examination. This court has previously so held. In *States Steamship Company v. United States*, 1958, 259 F.2d 458 at 469, we said:

> "Marine Surveyor Wilson who then inspected the ship for the American Bureau of Shipping testified that he received no special information concerning the vessel prior to his survey and he knew nothing outstanding against it. The record warranted the court's evident conclusion that an inspection of a vessel known to have a history of crack sensitiveness and particularly a history of a Class 1 fracture, should be much more careful and elaborate than this vessel ever had. The company itself was chargeable with knowledge of the pending inspection and yet it failed through Vallet or Brenneke [its port engineer, and its manager, respectively] or any other person to inform the inspectors of these special conditions attending the ship. In the words used in The Silver Palm [9 Cir., 94 F.2d 776], all these circumstances 'made the more imperative the obligation of the owner and operator to advise' of the special circumstances calling for a special inspection and a more thorough one than had been made."[12]

That appellants were here under a duty to disclose is also shown in the holding of the British case of *The Assunzione*, (1956) 2 Lloyds List Law Rep. 468, where, at 486, Mr. Justice Willmer (in quoting the expert Rolland and in discussing the value of a survey made by the owners themselves, and not one made by a classification surveyor) said:

> "A prudent shipowner has a superintendent whose duty it is in the first instance to go around the vessel finding out the defects, and pointing them out to the Classification Surveyor. A superintendent does not rely on the Classification Surveyor to point out the defects—at least it is not good practice to do so. The superintendent and the Classification Surveyor should inspect together and deliberate on what should be done."

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[12]And see cases we cited in that decision: **The Silver Palm**, 9 Cir., 94 F.2d 766; **Spencer Kellog & Sons v. Hicks**, 285 U.S. 502.

Appellants contend, in their reply brief, that the changes made on the Pacific Queen must have, or should have, been apparent to Elkins. We cannot agree. As mentioned above, because the vessel was engaged in Bristol Bay operations did not mean it *had* to be carrying gasoline. And appellants' gesture of requesting a survey on an unlighted dead vessel, which survey was related to a request to look at two new gillnetters, and only incidentally, to "look over" the vessel; plus (a) appellants' failure to point out hazards or (b) advise Elkins of intended changes, and (c) their failure to have one of the owners who was chief engineer identify himself, and (d) the failure to inform their brokers of present or intended changes, do not meet the good faith and fair disclosure requirements of the Marine Insurance Act. Nor can it lead us to believe that the district court was clearly erroneous in finding that the changes were *not* necessarily apparent to Elkins.

Appellants further contend, in their reply brief, that the quantity of gasoline carried was immaterial from a risk standpoint because only two gallons of gasoline (according to appellees' expert) was all that was needed to fuel an explosion of the magnitude of that which destroyed the Pacific Queen. The quantity carried may or may not be material; the manner in which the gasoline was carried and handled is material. If only two gallons of gasoline were needed to do that which was done, then an extra-hazardous system such as was here adopted by appellants makes the change all the more material; and indicates the correctness and reasonableness of the district court's finding that appellees would not have insured the vessel if appellants or their brokers (who were also kept in the dark) had disclosed all or any of the several material increases in the risk.

Appellants also contend many of the cases cited by appellees on this issue are inapposite. But they still rely on the *Mann* case, *supra*, and make no reply to Arnould's commentaries, nor to the language of the Marine Insurance Act itself.

Viewing the evidence, as this court must, we agree with the district court's holding that the insurance never attached and was void *ab initio* for failure to disclose material increases in

the risk. Such a holding was not clearly erroneous; nor was it without substantial evidence in the record to support it.

II

WAS THE PACIFIC QUEEN, WITH THE PRIVITY OF APPELLANTS, SENT TO SEA IN AN UNSEAWORTHY CONDITION?

The next question is whether the district court's finding that the Pacific Queen, with the privity of appellant-owners, was sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition is clear error. Again, we cannot hold the district court's finding was clearly erroneous.[13]

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[13]The district court found: "XI.

"The Pacific Queen was repeatedly sent to Sea in an Unseaworthy State with the Privity of the Owners

"A. The Pacific Queen was unseaworthy each time she was sent to sea on and after May 24, 1957. The Pacific Queen was unseaworthy when she left for her 1957 voyage by reason of the hazardous condition caused by the increased gasoline-carrying capacity and, to an even greater extent, by reason of the changed method of piping, valving and internal methods of discharge of gasoline. This system was grossly unsafe and improper, and created a great and serious hazard to life and property. The owners were privy to this unseaworthiness, and knew of these conditions and neglected to take reasonable precaution to correct these deficiencies and to make her seaworthy.

"B. After the Pacific Queen returned from Alaska, she shifted to various Puget Sound docks and was then sent to sea from Seattle to Friday Harbor, Washington. The hazardous gasoline condition remained uncorrected, and she was still in an unseaworthy state with privity and knowledge of her owners, and of her manager.

• • • •

"D. It is interesting to note, that the Friday Harbor spill was first discovered at 4 o'clock in the morning by the cook who was sleeping in his quarters on the main deck to which the fumes were wafted while the vessel was in a dead state with its ventilation not operating. It is probably more than coincidental that 8 days later, in Tacoma, at exactly the same time under almost identical conditions, the next time the ship's ventilation was shut down, the explosion took place in an area between the place of the spill and the location of the crew's quarters.

"E. The vessel was sent to sea with the privity of the owners and managers in an unseaworthy condition from Friday Harbor to Seattle where she remained a few days exposed to the same hazards and tied up at an oil dock where great hazard to life and property was continu-

Appellants do not strenuously contend that the Pacific Queen was not unseaworthy. Rather, the crux of their argument under this heading, premised upon Section 39(5) of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, is that unseaworthiness is immaterial. The Act referred to reads:

> "In a time policy there is no implied warranty that the ship will be seaworthy at any stage of the adventure. . . ."

And, as appellant brought this action under a time policy, they contend that the above wording removes any implied warranty of seaworthiness unless appellees can bring themselves within the following exception found in Section 39(5) which reads:

> ". . . but, where, with the privity of the assured, the ship is sent to sea in an unseaworthy state, the insurer is not liable for any loss attributed to unseaworthiness."

Thus appellants' argument here is that the Pacific Queen, even though unseaworthy, *was not sent to sea with their privity.* Appellants challenge both the terms "sent to sea" and "privity." It seems, however, that even here appellants' attack is directed toward the district court's interpretation and applicability of such terms *after* the Friday Harbor spillage. This is shown by appellants' extensive discussion on whether or not moving from port to port on Puget Sound is "at sea."[14]

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ously threatened. She then was again sent to sea from Seattle to Tacoma under the same extremely hazardous conditions.

"F. By reason of the continuing hazardous and unsafe method of discharging gasoline and by reason of the failure properly to clean up after the Friday Harbor spill, the Pacific Queen was again sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition when she left Seattle for Tacoma two days prior to her explosion and loss.

"G. The day after her arrival at Tacoma, while still in such perilous and unseaworthy condition with the privity and knowledge of her assured owners and managers, she exploded and became a constructive total loss with loss of life, and destruction of property. Her continuous unseaworthiness until her fatal explosion was a proximate cause of her loss."

[14]Appellants urge that "sent to sea" be defined by "Pilot Rules for Inland Waters," 33 CFR Part 80. But it should be noted that the trip from Seattle to Friday Harbor took seven hours; the vessel could make up to twelve knots; and the waters of Puget Sound can be rough enough

But the district court found "her continuous unseaworthiness was a proximate cause of her loss." She "was unseaworthy each time she was sent to sea on and after May 24, 1957." We agree with these findings, and need not decide the non-controlling issue of whether the Pacific Queen was "at sea" after the Friday Harbor spillage.

As Arnould, *supra*, states at § 706:[15]

> "It is not necessary, [under § 39(5) of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906] in order to exonerate the insurer from liability, that the unseaworthiness should be the sole cause of the loss; it is sufficient that the unseaworthiness was a proximate cause of the loss."

As to "privity," we again find the district court correct in finding it existed. Appellants place their principal reliance upon *Cia. Naviera Vascongada v. British & Foreign Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.*, (1936), 54 Ll. L. Rep. 35. Because the district court did not cite this case in its determination of the privity question, they claim a separate error. (Specification of Error 24.)

Appellants, on the authority of the *Vascongada* case, contend that there was no privity unless appellant Mardesich deliberately omitted or refrained from an examination of the vessel which might have revealed that gasoline had soaked and impregnated large portions of her wooden area, and that the omission of appellant Mardesich to take more precaution than was in fact taken cannot make appellants privity to any unseaworthiness which resulted from the gasoline spillage on September 9, 1957. But this contention again relates only to events which occurred

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to founder a great vessel (**The President Madison**, 9 Cir. 1937, 91 F.2d 935). Appellants concede that to make the case of **The West Kebar** (**American-West African Line, Inc. v. Socony-Vacuum Corporation**, D.C. E.D.N.Y., 1933, 4 F.Supp. 515) applicable, a further step must be taken. There the movement from one berth to another in the same harbor was held not the commencement of the voyage. Seventy miles of what can be rough water and a course which will allow a vessel to make twelve knots seems factually different from the **Kebar** case.

[15]Citing: **M. Thomas & Son Shipping Co. v. The London & Provincial Mar. Ins. Co.**, (1914) 29 T.L.R. 736 (cf. p. 737); **Cohen v. Standard Mar. Ins. Co. (The Prince George)**, (1925) 30 Com. Cas. 139 (cf. pp. 157-163, inclusive).

after the Friday Harbor gasoline spillage. And the district court found that the vessel's unseaworthiness was continuous from and after May 24, 1957, the day insurance attached.

The correct and most concise statement of what is meant by "privity" is set forth in *M. Thomas & Son Shipping Co. v. The London & Provincial Mar. Ins. Co.*, (1914) 30 T.L.R. 595 (C.A.). There, at page 596, the court said:

> "[W]ords in s. 39, sub-s 5, of the Marine Insurance Act, 1906, 'Where with the privity of the assured a ship is sent to sea in an unseaworthy state,' meant where the owner was privy to the state of things which in fact rendered the ship unseaworthy."

A reading of the facts as found by the district court clearly indicates that, within this definition, each time the Pacific Queen was sent to sea, from and after May 24, 1957, until her loss, she was in an unseaworthy state, to the knowledge and in the privity of the assured owner. This because of the knowledge of its condition resting in one or more of the partners, and the manager also a partner. The facts substantiate the district court's finding that said unseaworthiness was a proximate cause of the vessel's loss.

III

DID THE LOSS AND DAMAGE TO THE PACIFIC QUEEN RESULT FROM WANT OF DUE DILIGENCE BY APPELLANTS?

Appellants contend the district court erred in holding that they were precluded from recovering the loss of the Pacific Queen under the broader coverage of the Inchmaree clause contained in the contract of insurance here in issue.

Appellants represent that the Inchmaree clause was introduced to extend or broaden coverage and liability of underwriters; that the Inchmaree clause broadens coverage to include a variety of risks not embraced in the general perils of the sea clause. Appellees do not quarrel with this opinion.[9]

[9]An example of the broader coverage is shown in the instant case. The general perils clause does include "fire" but does not include "explosion." Arnould, **supra**, § 819, citing **Thames & Mersey Mar. Ins. Co. v.**

The Inchmaree clause reads:

"This insurance also specially to cover (subject to the free of average warranty) loss of or damage to hull or machinery directly caused by the following:—

Accidents in loading, discharging or handling cargo; or in bunkering or in taking in fuel.

Explosions on shipboard or elsewhere.

Bursting of boilers, breakage of shafts or any latent defect in the machinery or hull (excluding, however, the cost and expense of repairing or renewing the defective part).

Negligence of Master, Mariners, Engineers or Pilots. [P]rovided such loss or damage has not resulted from want of due diligence by the Owners of the Vessel, or any of them, or by the Managers.

Masters, Mates, Engineers, Pilot or Crew not to be considered as part owners within the meaning of this clause should they hold shares in the vessel."

Appellants assume, *arguendo*, on this issue that they were negligent. But, they contend, the Inchmaree clause includes this risk and, therefore, appellees should be liable for the loss and damage to the Pacific Queen. The cases here cited by appellants largely relate to other circumstances and law; *e.g.*, most deal with section 39(5) unseaworthiness questions.

On this issue the district court found the loss was caused by a gasoline explosion.[17]

Hamilton, [1887], 12 App.Cas. 484. But the Inchmaree clause, by its very terms, includes loss by "explosion." Hence, appellants urge coverage under the Inchmaree clause.

[17] "XII.

"The Destruction of the Pacific Queen was Caused by a Gasoline Explosion

"A. Based on the overwhelming preponderance of the evidence, the constructive total loss of the Pacific Queen was the result of a gasoline explosion. There is no credible or reasonable direct evidence or inference from the evidence to the contrary. The explosion was of gasoline and gasoline vapors from the prior spill into the interior of the vessel at

Appellants contend that the district court's finding that the

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Friday Harbor. The fire which followed the destructive explosion was primarily of this gasoline and gasoline vapors feeding on the wooden members of the then shattered hulk of the Pacific Queen as she was sinking to the shallow bottom. But the explosion had already caused such extensive wreckage as to render her a constructive and total loss irrespective of the subsequent gasoline flames touched off by the explosion which engulfed the wrecked vessel and though intense were soon extinguished.

"B. There is no credible evidence of arson. The Tacoma Fire Department, the Tacoma Police Department, and the United States Coast Guard all made extensive investigations and none found any basis for such a conclusion. No further evidence whatsoever as to arson or other wrongful acts by third persons was adduced in the extensive pre-trial depositions, or at trial; and the Court finds there is no basis in fact for any such contentions. The explosion was due to accumulated gas vapors that created a most perilous condition, and to accidental ignition possibly by the deceased crew member or some other chance spark.

"C. There was no pre-existing fire in the Pacific Queen preceding the explosion. The gasoline explosion was the proximate cause of the constructive total loss of the vessel. The source of ignition is unknown. It could have been a spark from a cigarette, or a match, or an electric contact, or other accidental source; but the explosion resulted from a want of due diligence by the assured owners and manager to remedy the extremely hazardous condition which existed from the time of the gasoline spill.

"D. The possibility that it was an ammonia explosion is, at the very best, not any more than remote and unlikely speculation. Captain Buckler's testimony to the effect that he now believes the explosion to have been of ammonia origin was arrived at shortly before trial in conference with plaintiff's counsel, and without his being in possession of any additional facts other than those on which, a few months earlier, he had based his prior written survey opinion that the cause of the explosion was unknown. Plaintiff's expert witness, Mr. Sax, based his opinion that the explosion was of ammonia origin on an inadequate examination of the vessel and on assumed facts which were not supported by the evidence.

"E. Testimony, introduced by the plaintiffs, of witnesses living within a few hundred feet of the explosion, who were immediately awakened and could observe its inception, reported a ball of orange fire and of black smoke at the time of the explosion of gasoline. Such a characteristic is consistent only with an explosion of gasoline vapor origin. Plaintiffs' expert, Mr. Sax, also concedes this fact. The ammonia odor at the scene of the catastrophe was from ammonia remnants in a refrigeration system that had previously been completely pumped down. The odor is very noxious and can arise from small traces or quantities.

loss of the Pacific Queen was due to a gasoline explosion was clearly erroneous. With this contention we cannot agree. A

"F. Moreover, and more importantly, the theory of an ammonia explosion is based entirely upon the additional hypothesis that a severe fire existed in the engine room prior to the explosion. The Court's personal examination aboard the hulk of the Pacific Queen and the photographs in evidence show, beyond the slightest question, that no fire existed in the engine room prior to the time that the forward bulkhead in the engine room was blown off its flanges. This occurred at the time of the explosion. The char in the engine room and behind the flanges is easily explicable by the fury of the fire after the explosion. This is illustrated by the photographs taken by Mr. Kollar.

"G. The Court was much more favorably impressed by the testimony of defendants' witnesses, Professor Moulton, Mr. Kniseley and Captain Lees, not only by reason of their greater scientific qualifications and practical experience and ability in the areas as to which they testified, but also because they were much more adequately apprised of the true facts of the explosion and fire.

"H. The peculiar internal system of ventilation and the path of air on the Pacific Queen, unaided by mechanical ventilation, so graphically illustrated at the time of the Friday Harbor spill, resulted in the presence in the upper port forward engine room of an explosive mixture of gasoline vapors with air at the time of the explosion which mixture was the explosive agent and cause of the loss of the Pacific Queen.

"XIII.

"The Owners and Manager of the Pacific Queen Did Not Use Due Diligence to Prevent the Loss of the Pacific Queen by Explosion

"A. Some of the owners and the manager of the Pacific Queen, Mardesich, were privy to, and had thorough knowledge of the dangerous conditions aboard the Pacific Queen from the time 8,000 gallons of gasoline were loaded in May 1957, to the date of the explosion on September 17, 1957. The owners and the manager, Mardesich, failed to use due diligence and were grossly negligent in preventing the loss of the Pacific Queen by explosion in at least two respects:

"1. First, as outlined above, at some time between 1955 and May 24, 1957, they were privy to and knew they had converted the gasoline discharge facilities of the Pacific Queen in such fashion as they became totally improper and unsafe. This improper and unsafe system was a proximate cause of the explosion and resultant destruction of the vessel.

"2. Second, the owners and manager of the Pacific Queen were privy to the Friday Harbor spill and failed to use due diligence and were grossly negligent in the steps taken toward cleaning up the results of the Friday Harbor gasoline spill and to purge the vessel and its structures of gasoline and gasoline vapors, all with the actual knowledge

logical inference from the facts before the trial court clearly allows such a conclusion.[18]

The district court's findings of want of due diligence on the part of appellant-owners and of a gasoline explosion are neither clearly erroneous, nor without substantial evidence to support them, seems clear. As stated by Arnould, *supra*, at page 764 (cited by appellants in their reply brief):

> "It is clear that a loss may be proximately caused by more than one peril, that is by a combination of causes, and in this event the loss can be properly attributed to any one of such causes."

We believe, therefore, it was proper for the district court to attribute the Pacific Queen's loss to a gasoline explosion, even if another peril or combination of perils *could* have been a concurrent cause.

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and acquiescence and direction of owner and manager Mardesich; as well as of owner, superintendent and chief engineer Jasprica.

"B. The manager, Mr. Mardesich, was especially privy to all of these conditions. He knew of the alterations of the tanks; of the loading of 8,000 gallons of gasoline; of the extreme hazard of exposed interior valves; and of the serious gasoline spill at Friday Harbor; and he personally inspected the vessel at that time, but he failed to exercise due diligence to purge her of gasoline and fumes, or to remove the remaining bulk gasoline, or to make any gas-free tests, or to secure and plug the drain-valves in the other tanks. Considering the serious nature of the spill, the measures taken by the owners and manager to purge the Pacific Queen of gasoline, and gasoline vapors were not adequate in the exercise of due diligence.

"C. The subsequent explosion and destruction of the Pacific Queen were proximately caused by these failures by the owner and manager to use due diligence. This failure to use due diligence was with the privity and knowledge of the owners, and of the manager, Mr. Mardesich. He was fully informed but treated the hazardous loading, stowage, and subsequent large spill of gasoline with such a casual indifference as to amount to gross negligence and an extraordinary want of due diligence."

[18]We need only refer to the report in evidence, and the testimony of witnesses, that there was present at the moment of the explosion a large ball of orange fire, and of black smoke; characteristics consistent only with an explosion of gasoline vapor origin. And not consistent, as conceded by appellants' expert, with an explosion of ammonia origin. (Finding of Fact XII, supra.)

IV

DID APPELLANTS BREACH THE IMPLIED WARRANTY THAT THE ADVENTURE WOULD BE LAWFUL AND, TO THE EXTENT THEY COULD CONTROL THE MATTER, THAT THE ADVENTURE WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN A LAWFUL MANNER?

The district court found appellants guilty of such a breach.[19]

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[19] "XIV.

"Plaintiffs had Imputed Knowledge of the Tanker Act and of Coast Guard Regulations which made it Unlawful to Transport Bulk Gasoline without a Certificate

"A. In 1949 plaintiff John Breskovich, as one of the owners of the Pacific Queen, chartered her to sail to the Hawaiian Islands, carrying refrigerated cargo during the time of a maritime strike. Incident to such use, he was required to have the vessel inspected by Coast Guard inspection, which required the vessel to make certain changes before she sailed, including the following:

'2-2000 gal. gasoline tanks aft of compressor room to be **pumped dry of gasoline, lines disconnect[ed] & tanks filled with water & plugged.**'

(Emphasis supplied [by the court].)

"B. Plaintiff John Breskovich had actual knowledge of the existence of the Tanker Act by reason of his compliance with the Coast Guard regulations thereunder in preparing the Pacific Queen for a cargo voyage to Hawaii in 1949.

"C. Plaintiff John Vilicich had actual knowledge of the Coast Guard's contention that the Tanker Act was applicable to the Pacific Queen and reefer fishing vessels by August 1957 because the Alaska Reefer, another vessel of which he was also a part-owner, was cited for a violation of the Tanker Act by the Coast Guard for transporting bulk gasoline without inspection and certification as to safety. He knew this at least three weeks before the Friday Harbor spill.

"D. Plaintiff August P. Mardesich is a graduate of the University of Washington Law School, . . . He also knew of that claim of the Coast Guard prior to the time the Pacific Queen was sent to sea to Friday Harbor . . ..

"E. Each of the three managing owners of the Pacific Queen, in its earlier years, were men of wide business experience and standing in the community. Each knew of the Tanker Act.

"XV

"The Pacific Queen was in Continuing Violation of the Tanker Act Through the Fishing Season of 1957

"A. In 1957 gasoline was carried as cargo. It was sold to some independent fishermen. It was one of the concessions given to other independent fishermen to get them to fish for the Pacific Queen. More

The district court concluded (a) that the Tanker Act was applicable, (b) that the Pacific Queen's gasoline was supplied and used by others, and (c) that the gasoline transported by the Pacific Queen was not "fuel or stores" but was "cargo." The district court further concluded that such violation of the Tanker Act constituted negligence or want of due care and diligence on the part of the vessel's owners (independent of other findings of negligence and want of due diligence) but that this violation was not of such a character as to render the entire venture or voyage an illegal one. The court concluded that the hauling of the gasoline in bulk for the use described above was not the primary purpose of the voyage but merely an incident thereof.

We find the district court's findings and conclusions are detailed and well-reasoned, but even were we to assume they were erroneous on this issue alone and were we to hold that appellants had not violated the Tanker Act[20] because its application as to them was vague and uncertain, this would not require a reversal of the case. With this in mind, we state the following:

---

than 4% of the 8,000 gallons of gasoline carried to Alaska was sold to independent fishermen Pearson and Vistad. This amount constituted more than 6% of the number of gallons of gasoline actually used in the 1957 fishing season by the Pacific Queen.

"B. Under the 1957 joint venture agreement between Pacific Queen Fisheries, Pacific Reefer Fisheries, and North Star Fisheries, only 8 of 20 gillnet boats carried aboard the Pacific Queen belonged to Pacific Queen Fisheries. Nine belonged to Pacific Reefer Fisheries, one to North Star Fisheries, and two were independents. Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, the Pacific Queen agreed to supply gasoline for all of these other gillnet boats except the independents to whom it sold gasoline. Thus, well over 50% of the gasoline carried aboard the Pacific Queen was intended for gillnet fishing vessels, other than those belonging to the Pacific Queen."

[20]The Tanker Act (46 U.S.C. § 391a), in pertinent part, reads:

"All vessels, regardless of tonnage, size, or manner of propulsion, and whether self-propelled or not, and whether carrying freight or passengers for hire or not, that shall have on board any inflammable or combustible liquid cargo in bulk, . . . shall be considered steam vessels for the purposes of title 52 of the Revised Statutes and shall be subject to the provisions thereof; **Provided**, That this section shall not apply to vessels having on board only inflammable or combustible liquid for use as fuel or stores . . ."

We feel there exists a question, under the circumstances here presented, whether or not the bulk gasoline carried by the Pacific Queen could come within the term "fuel or stores." More importantly, other fishing vessels, performing a similar role as that played by the Pacific Queen, are (or very shortly will be) engaged in fishing adventures. Some carry bulk gasoline for the same purposes as those of the Pacific Queen. Many are insured, either by appellees or other underwriters. If a loss occurred, this case would be an important and perhaps controlling precedent. The Commandant of the Coast Guard said:

> "3. Since full compliance with either the regulations under the Tanker Act or the Dangerous Cargo Act, neither of which regulations were designed to cover this type of vessel and operation, which is presumably fishing, is impossible, or impracticable of accomplishment and further, since it is possible that the legal responsibilities of the owners of this type of vessel are not sufficiently clear, the file in this case will be referred to the Merchant Marine Council for study and action towards issuing such clarifying regulations as may be indicated."

Therefore, we prefer not to make an unnecessary decision on a non-controlling issue until the Merchant Marine Council (an expert body which can hold hearings and consider all ramifications of the question) has determined by regulation whether vessels of the Pacific Queen's type and operation should or should not be within the purview of the Tanker and Dangerous Cargo Acts.

V

COLLATERAL QUESTIONS.

A. Did the contractual limitation of action provision in the Buffalo Insurance Company policy bar appellants' action against Buffalo Insurance Company? We hold it did.

Conclusion of Law XI reads:

> "The Liability of defendant, Buffalo Insurance Company, is in any event barred by the time of suit clause.

The policy of defendant, Buffalo Insurance Company (Pl. Ex. 1) provides in part:

"No suit or action on this Policy for the recovery of any claim shall be sustainable in any Court • • • unless commenced within *twelve months* next after the calendar date of *the happening of the physical loss* or damage out of which the said claim arose • • •." [Emphasis added by the trial judge.]

Since suit was not brought within one year, this claim is procedurally barred.

RCW 48.12.200 (1) (3)

Heffner v. Great American Ins. Co., 126 Wash. 390, 218 Pac. 206 (1923).

Hassett v. Penn. Fire Ins. Co., 150 Wash. 502, 273 Pac. 145 (1929)."

In reply to the authorities relied upon by the court, and the brief, and in an attempt to show error in the district court, appellants, at page 15 of their reply brief state:

"Insurers have cited no English authority in the point and, therefore, *Phoenix Ins. Co. of Hartford v. De Monchy*, (1929) 45 T.L.R. 543, 35 Com.Cas. 67, quoted at page 51 of [appellants'] main brief, must be deemed conclusive and the Buffalo time bar provision must be disregarded."

Appellants rely heavily upon the *Phoenix* case involving turpentine that evaporated in transit. In that case, the policies contained the time clause limitation, but there was none in the certificate. It was held the certificate was the actual insurance, and the time clauses not contained in it could not be read into it (p. 544). The judgment was affirmed by the Lords. At page 544 it is stated:

"It follows, I think, that all clauses of the policy which are essential to the contract of marine insurance must be read into the certificate, but beyond that there is no necessity to go. The condition in question is a collateral stipulation [a one year contractual time bar clause] imposing a condition precedent. It has nothing particular to do with insurance, but might be applied to any contract. Common sense and fairness revolt against the idea of this being

> enforced against the holder or indorsee of the certificate . . . [who could never have seen the policy]."[21]

The trial court in the *Phoenix* case had not held, as the district court did here, that the limitation clause was part of the actual contract between the parties. The appellate court there was affirming the court of appeals (44 Times L.R. 364). Had the lower court held there as the trial court did here, what would the appellant there have argued?

Having held the clause to be valid and an essential part of the contract entered into (for which there was ample support in law), we do not believe the district court's conclusion on this point was erroneous.

B. Was it proper for the district court to deny appellants a trial by jury? This is a matter within the discretion of the district court, and we conclude no abuse of said discretion is shown. However, because of the importance of this issue, we feel it must be discussed at some length. Our task is further enlarged by a complicated and confusing state of the record, and the manner in which this issue was presented to the trial court. We recognize that since "a right to trial by jury is a constitutional one . . . [the court's] discretion is very narrowly limited," and "must, wherever possible be exercised to preserve jury trial"[22]—yet the Rules of Civil Procedure mean something, and a limited judicial discretion must of necessity still exist.

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[21] The factual situation was, to say the least, unusual. Lord Atkin said:

> "The so-called policy is in fact misnamed. It does not insure anything, it neither defines the subject matter insured, except that it is merchandise, principally . . . naval stores, nor the voyage insured, nor the sum insured. It is a promise during a certain time to issue policies to the named assured against named risks, but the completed policies named in the certificates are to be capable of varying the conditions of the policy in accordance with written instructions given from time to time by the insurers. . . . The [limitation] clause is not one which binds the certificate holder." (Id. at 549.)

[22] **Beacon Theatres v. Westover** (1959) 359 U.S. 500, 510. As Justice Black, the author of the **Beacon Theatres** case decision, said with respect to its holding:

> "**Beacon Theatres** requires that any legal issue for which a trial by jury **is timely and properly demanded** be submitted to a jury." (Emphasis added.) **Dairy Queen v. Wood**, 369 U.S. 469.

The district court's "Memorandum Decision Re Applicable Law Jury Demand," at page 224 of the record, reads as follows:

> "It is indisputable on the record that plaintiffs' demand for jury trial was untimely by a substantial margin and that this constitutes jury waiver under F. R. Civ. P. 38(d). Although allowed ample time and opportunity therefor plaintiffs have not made a showing which amounts to excusable neglect, inadvertence or mistake or other basis on which the court in its discretion should order jury trial under F. R. Civ. P. 39(b). Plaintiffs' motion for jury trial is denied; exception allowed."

Finding of Fact No. III supports the above decision.

It is undisputed appellants never perfected a jury demand in the district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. There is dispute as to whether a jury demand was perfected in the State court. The right to jury trial in the State court is governed by RCW 4.44.100. This statute expressly requires that a statement electing jury trial be both served *and* filed *and* a jury fee paid. Unless such statement "is filed . . . the parties shall be deemed to have waived trial by jury and *consented* to a trial by court." (Emphasis added.)

The jury demand was never *filed*. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 38(d) requires that a jury demand be filed, and upon failure to do so, applies the penalty of a waiver of jury trial. Appellants now take the position they had established their *right* to a jury trial in the State court action. They state in their reply brief (p. 15):

> "Insurers caused to be inserted in the printed record certain material not in the record, and not in existence at the time of judgment, without leave of the court or notice to their adversaries."

This reference is to pages 51 to 53, inclusive, of the record, which contain an affidavit of appellees' counsel to which is attached a photostat of the Appearance Docket of some case pending in Pierce County, Washington, entitled "Mike Barovic (sic)[23] vs.

[23]Mike Barovic, of course, here named as a plaintiff, was one plaintiff and a partner of Pacific Queen Fisheries.

L. Symes, et al." This photostat is described in the affidavit to which it was attached as "a certified copy of the Docket in case #137440—entitled Pacific Queen Fisheries, a partnership, et al., v. L. Symes." We assume that this is an accurate photostat of the Appearance Docket of the Pearce County Superior Court in one of the cases then before it and now before us (now No. 17460) on appeal.

When appellants urged the jury question in their opening brief, pp. 52-54, they took the position, unlike the one taken before the trial judge, that serving a demand for jury trial, and paying the required fee "completed the formalities required of a plaintiff for a right to trial by jury under the Rules of Procedure of the Superior Court for the State of Washington."

Appellees urged first that failure to file the demand for a jury trial waived or forfeited any right to it; and *secondly*, that the appellants in the federal courts (a) had neither filed a timely demand for a jury trial, and (b) had never urged that they had "completed all formalities" required by the State court, and hence had not acquired any "right" to a jury trial. The issue not having been raised below could not be raised on this appeal. In other words, appellants asked for a jury trial (under Rule 39(b)—discretion of trial judge), but never took the position they were entitled to it as a matter of right. They did not deny a technical waiver had occurred, merely that there had been "no conscious waiver." (Supp. Tr. of September 26, 1960, p. 45.)

To substantiate appellees' position, they filed in this court on March 29, 1962, a motion to augment the record, in the following particulars:

1. The Notice of Argument dated September 6, 1960.

2. The Notice of setting cause for trial.

3. Portions of defendant-appellees' Reply Brief, opposing jury trial, filed September 19, 1960.

4. Plaintiff-appellants' Memorandum in support of jury trial.

5. The Transcript of proceedings before the trial judge, had on September 26, 1960.

Appellants here had no objection to such augmentation—provided they were permitted to augment the record by an affidavit,

made by the judge of the Washington State court to which was attached his rough calendar for November 21, 1960, and a reporter's transcript of the proceedings had before him on September 12, 1960. On that date the State court agreed to set the case for trial late in November. On September 12, 1960, Mr. Copeland, counsel for appellants, there questioned the judge: "I would assume about a four-day jury trial," and Mr. Stephan, counsel for present appellees, stated: "I think it would be more like ten, if we have a jury. We have no jury in the federal court; the federal court is going to dispose of all of this matter."

There being no objection to the augmenting of the record, by either side, this court granted each side leave to augment.

Between the September 12, 1960 appearance and the November 21, 1960 "future setting" for a trial by jury in the State court, the federal court held a hearing on the matter. This was on September 26, 1960. On that date, Mr. Dow, appearing as counsel for appellants, moved the federal court "that we remove our State court case to this Court and consolidate the two for purposes of trial." This was agreed to by counsel for defendant-appellees, and approved by the court. The litigants then presented authorities and argument on that same date with respect to appellees' request for a jury trial. This was a 39(b) motion addressed to the sound discretion of the court. In their memorandum of law in support of such motion, Pacific Queen significantly conceded:

> "• • • plaintiffs may not have a jury trial as of right. However, this Court in its discretion may upon proper application grant an order placing the matter upon the Civil Jury Calendar. The authority for such an order lies in Rule 39(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure • • •. Plaintiffs have moved the court *for such an order* and submit this brief in support of their application." (Emphasis by appellants.) (Augmented Record, Item 4, pp. 1-2.)

As a result, the district court had no notice of the now claimed *right* to jury in the State court. At no time did appellants file a jury demand as required by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 5(d) and 38(d). Appellants now raise an issue never raised in the trial court. Furthermore, it will be recalled that one case on

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*Sic, should be "appellants'", R. 1695, 1709, 1717, 1735.

this Appeal (No. 17,461) had originally been filed in the State court and was removed to the district court which denied remand; the other case on this appeal (No. 17,460), originally filed in the State court, and afterwards removed to the Federal court, remanded back to the State court was then by motion and stipulation (see note 24, infra) returned to the Federal court and consolidated with No. 17,461. No timely jury demand was made in the "No. 17,461" case, then pending in the Federal court; appellants do not contend otherwise. With this in mind, the stipulation bears out the fact that the district court neither committed error nor abused its discretion. Appellants entered into the significant stipulation, which appears in the margin,[24] with respect to the cases.

Under all the circumstances here appearing, we believe the district court properly consolidated the cases as non-jury cases. We hold there was no abuse of discretion.

C. Was the district court correct in holding appellants Hull, Peck and Royer to be partners in Pacific Queen Fisheries, and

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[24]The stipulation reads:

"1. That these causes shall be consolidated for trial, and that since the issues and contentions of the parties are the same or similar save and except as to the fact that suit is brought upon different policies of insurance, the pre-trial order heretofore entered in cause No. 2543 and any and all supplements or amendments thereto, shall be deemed and considered as applicable to and controlling upon the issues of this case except insofar as it shall be necessary during the course of the trial to indicate verbally or in writing that some such provision is not entirely applicable or that some additional proof or provision should be made other than contained in the pre-trial order, it being the understanding and the purpose of this stipulation to avoid the necessity of the long and laborious work of another pre-trial order, it being the contemplation of the parties that there can be very little if any differences other than clerical or mechanical as the same may be made applicable to certain different documents that afford the basis for the insurance and that this stipulation is made for the convenience of counsel and the Court to avoid unnecessary paper work in the obtaining of a pre-trial order, but at the same time eliminate any excessive amount of trial work which would be eliminated by the pre-trial order but at the same time to not foreclose either party from the right or privilege of producing any evidence or making any contention which is necessary to the proper presentation of that party's case by reason of the fact that the pre-trial order is not separately prepared and is incorporated by reference to this stipulation."

necessary parties whose admissions would be binding on appellant Pacific Queen? We hold it was. We think this is adequately demonstrated by a reading of Conclusion of Law X (R. 285-286).

However, appellants do not deem the point worthy of extensive discussion because "we know of no damaging 'admissions' made by any of these three men as referred to in the lower court's Finding of Fact X . . ." We do not consider that this point warrants further discussion. Thus, even if error, the error is harmless.

Finding no error, we *affirm* the judgment below for the reasons stated above.

(Endorsed) Opinion Filed Aug. 3, 1962.

Frank H. Schmid, Clerk.

As amended by Order of Aug. 31, 1962

APPENDIX B

MARINE INSURANCE ACT, 1906[1]

6 Edw. 7, c. 41

Marine adventure and maritime perils defined

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every lawful marine adventure may be the subject of a contract of marine insurance.

(2) In particular there is a marine adventure where

(a) Any ship, goods or other movables are exposed to maritime perils. Such property is in this Act referred to as "insurable property";

(b) The earning or acquisition of any freight, passage money, commission, profit, or other pecuniary benefit, or the security for any advances, loan, or disbursements, is endangered by the exposure of insurable property to maritime perils;

(c) Any liability to a third party may be incurred by the owner of, or other person interested in or responsible for, insurable property, by reason of maritime perils.

"Maritime perils" means the perils consequent on, or incidental to, the navigation of the sea, that is to say, perils of the seas, fire, war perils, pirates, rovers, thieves, captures, seizures, restraints, and detainments of princes and peoples, jettisons, barratry, and any other perils, either of the like kind or which may be designated by the policy.

* * *

Disclosure and Representations

Insurance is uberrimae fidei

17. A contract of marine insurance is a contract based upon the utmost good faith, and, if the utmost good faith be not observed by either party, the contract may be avoided by the other party.

[1] Excerpts from 10 British Shipping Laws, Arnould, Marine Insurance (1961). Cf. F.F. XVII A; R. 277; and OP. 12A, fn. 11.

Disclosure by assured

18.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the assured must disclose to the insurer, before the contract is concluded, every material circumstance which is known to the assured, and the assured is deemed to know every circumstance which, in the ordinary course of business, ought to be known by him. If the assured fails to make such disclosure, the insurer may avoid the contract.

(2) Every circumstance is material which would influence the judgment of a prudent insurer in fixing the premium, or determining whether he will take the risk.

(3) In the absence of inquiry the following circumstances need not be disclosed, namely:—

(a) Any circumstance which diminishes the risk;

(b) Any circumstance which is known or presumed to be known to the insurer. The insurer is presumed to know matters of common notoriety or knowledge, and matters which an insurer in the ordinary course of his business, as such, ought to know;

(c) Any circumstance as to which information is waived by the insurer;

(d) Any circumstance which it is superflous to disclose by reason of any express or implied warranty.

(4) Whether any particular circumstance, which is not disclosed, be material or not is, in each case, a question of fact.

(5) The term "circumstance" includes any communication made to, or information received by, the assured.

Disclosure by agent effecting insurance

19. Subject to the provisions of the preceding section as to circumstances which need not be disclosed, where an insurance is effected for the assured by an agent, the agent must disclose to the insurer—

(a) Every material circumstance which is known to himself, and an agent to insure is deemed to know every circumstance which in the ordinary course of business ought to be known by, or to have been communicated to, him; and

(b) Every material circumstance which the assured is bound to disclose, unless it come to his knowledge too late to communicate it to the agent.

Representations pending negotiation of contract

20.—(1) Every material representation made by the assured or his agent to the insurer during the negotiations for the contract, and before the contract is concluded, must be true. If it be untrue the insurer may avoid the contract.

(2) A representation is material which would influence the judgment of a prudent insurer in fixing the premium, or determining whether he will take the risk.

(3) A representation may be either a representation as to a matter of fact, or as to a matter of expectation or belief.

(4) A representation as to a matter of fact is true, if it be substantially correct, that is to say, if the difference between what is represented and what is actually correct would not be considered material by a prudent insurer.

(5) A representation as to a matter of expectation or belief is true if it be made in good faith.

(6) A representation may be withdrawn or corrected before the contract is concluded.

(7) Whether a particular representation be material or not is, in each case, a question of fact.

* * *

Warranties, etc.

Nature of warranty

33.—(1) A warranty, in the following sections relating to warranties, means a promissory warranty, that is to say, a

warranty by which the assured undertakes that some particular thing shall or shall not be done, or that some condition shall be fulfilled, or whereby he affirms or negatives the existence of a particular state of facts.

(2) A warranty may be express or implied.

(3) A warranty, as above defined, is a condition which must be exactly complied with, whether it be material to the risk or not. If it be not so complied with, then, subject to any express provision in the policy, the insurer is discharged from liability as from the date of the breach of warranty, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by him before that date.

When breach of warranty excused

34.—(1) Non-compliance with a warranty is excused when, by reason of a change of circumstances, the warranty ceases to be applicable to the circumstances of the contract, or when compliance with the warranty is rendered unlawful by any subsequent law.

(2) Where a warranty is broken, the assured cannot avail himself of the defence that the breach has been remedied, and the warranty complied with, before loss.

(3) A breach of warranty may be waived by the insurer.

Express warranties

35.—(1) An express warranty may be in any form of words from which the intention to warrant is to be inferred.

(2) An express warranty must be included in, or written upon, the policy, or must be contained in some document incorporated by reference into the policy.

(3) An express warranty does not exclude an implied warranty, unless it be inconsistent therewith.

• • •

Warranty of seaworthiness of ship

39.—(1) In a voyage policy there is an implied warranty that at the commencement of the voyage the ship shall be seaworthy for the purpose of the particular adventure insured.

(2) Where the policy attaches while the ship is in port, there is also an implied warranty that she shall, at the commencement of the risk, be reasonably fit to encounter the ordinary perils of the port.

(3) Where the policy relates to a voyage which is performed in different stages, during which the ship requires different kinds of or further preparation or equipment, there is an implied warranty that at the commencement of each stage the ship is seaworthy in respect of such preparation or equipment for the purposes of that stage.

(4) A ship is deemed to be seaworthy when she is reasonably fit in all respects to encounter the ordinary perils of the seas of the adventure insured.

(5) In a time policy there is no implied warranty that the ship shall be seaworthy at any stage of the adventure, but where, with the privity of the assured, the ship is sent to sea in an unseaworthy state, the insurer is not liable for any loss attributable to unseaworthiness.

• • •

Warranty of legality

41. There is an implied warranty that the adventure insured is a lawful one, and that, so far as the assured can control the matter, the adventure shall be carried out in a lawful manner.

• • •

Loss and Abandonment

Included and excluded losses

55.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, and unless the policy otherwise provides, the insurer is liable for any

loss proximately caused by a peril insured against, but, subject as aforesaid, he is not liable for any loss which is not proximately caused by a peril insured against.

(2) In particular,—

(a) The insurer is not liable for any loss attributable to the wilful misconduct of the assured, but, unless the policy otherwise provides, he is liable for any loss proximately caused by a peril insured against, even though the loss would not have happened but for the misconduct or negligence of the master or crew;

(b) Unless the policy otherwise provides, the insurer on ship or goods is not liable for any loss proximately caused by delay, although the delay be caused by a peril insured against;

(c) Unless the policy otherwise provides, the insurer is not liable for ordinary wear and tear, ordinary leakage and breakage, inherent vice or nature of the subject-matter insured, or for any loss proximately caused by rats or vermin, or for any injury to machinery not proximately caused by maritime perils.

Office Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED
FEB 14 1963
JOHN F. DAVIS, CLERK

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1962

No. 655

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, *et al.*,
Petitioners,

vs.

L. SYMES, *et al.*,
Respondents.

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, *et al.*,
Petitioners,

vs.

ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY, *et al.*,
Respondents.

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

BRIEF FOR PETITIONERS IN REPLY

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BRIEF FOR PETITIONERS IN REPLY

Statement

This reply brief is submitted pursuant to Rule 24(1) of this Court and is limited to matters raised in "Brief for Respondents in Opposition" which have not been fully covered in the Petition.

ARGUMENT

I

Respondents may not convert the laxity of their surveyor into a foundation for a defense of "concealment."

John W. Elkins, the United States Salvage Association surveyor who conducted the 1957 condition survey (Pltffs. Exh. 17)[1] of PACIFIC QUEEN upon which the granting of the insurance in this litigation was predicated, did not testify at the trial. Respondents would not produce him and, living in California (R. 1172), he was beyond the range of Petitioners' subpoena. His deposition (Pltffs.' Exh. 52;[1] R. 1171-1225) was taken, however, and the excerpts quoted from it hereunder show Elkins' carelessness and that Petitioners' suppressed nothing.

Record, p. 1184:

> "Q. Now, when you met Mr. Jasprica [Chief Engineer], did you recognize him? Did you know who he was? A. No.
>
> Q. Did you talk to him? A. Not about the vessel, as I recall. I think we talked more about the previous fishing season, and—
>
> Q. Well, did you ask him who he was? A. No, sir.
>
> Q. Did you ask for help? A. No, sir.
>
> Q. Did you ask him to accompany you? A. No, sir.
>
> Q. Did you ask him where the chief engineer was? A. No, sir.
>
> Q. Did you ask him where the master was? A. No, sir."

Record, p. 1186:

> "Q. Did you ask him to get any help for you that you wanted? A. No.

[1] Offered R. 348; received R. 351.

Q. Did you ask him to put any light on the ship? A. No.

Q. Do you normally require help in making your surveys, or do you make them alone? A. Small boat, make them alone; larger vessel, you are supposed to have somebody with you.

Q. Now, is this a large vessel that you were supposed to have— A. I would consider it a fairly large vessel.

Q. And you were supposed to have somebody with you? A. According to our rules, yes.

Q. Did you obey your rules? A. No."

Record, p. 1188:

"Q. Now, there is evidence in the case, and I think it is undisputed, that the Pacific Queen sailed on the 27th day of May; now, there were twenty-five days between the time of your survey and her sailing; did you ever go back aboard the ship in those twenty-five days? A. Well now, I am going on memory, and I may be wrong, but it seemed to me that I was over there on some other job and I dropped by there one afternoon to see if they had filled those CO_2 bottles. I think I did.

Q. Did you look around the ship some more? A. No. In that particular case, I was only checking that bank of CO_2 bottles down there.

Q. Was there any reason, anything that would prevent you from looking around further if you wanted to? A. No.

Q. Did you ask for any further assistance in looking over the ship? A. No.

Q. At any time during the twenty-five days from the day of your first examination until her sailing, did you ever [20] ask for any assistance from anyone connected with the vessel to help you on a further survey? A. No.

Q. Were you ever denied access to any area of the vessel that you wished to look at? A. No."

Record, p. 1193:

"*By Mr. Dow*:

Q. You note on Page 2 that there is a reference there to gasoline-powered gill net boats (Handing to witness)? A. Uh-huh.

Mr. Stephan: Now, sir, please answer yes or no for the record.

The Witness: I beg your pardon.

A. Yes.

By Mr. Dow:

Q. Did you ask to see where the gasoline was stored? A. No."

Record, p. 1196:

"Q. And you were never refused any information on this vessel, [29] were you? A. Not in this particular case.

Q. Were you ever refused any information on the Pacific Queen? A. No.

Mr. Dow: That is all. Thank you."

Record, p. 1209:

"*By Mr. Dow*:

Q. Tell us about the time you were at Bristol Bay. What year was that? A. Oh, I don't know, probably '50, '51, '52, along in there, '53. I had a fire up there, and I went to Alaska maybe four or five times a year, various parts of Alaska.

Q. When you were up at Bristol Bay, were they using power gill netters there at the time? A. Yeah."

Record, p. 1217:

"*By Mr. Dow:*

Q. Did you ever see any gasoline storage on any of the reefer vessels in the Northwest? A. Yes, I have seen it."

Record, p. 1220:

"*By Mr. Dow:*

Q. You saw these gill net boats on the Pacific Queen, didn't you? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And some of them were gasoline driven boats, were they not? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did it ever occur to you to discover if any gas was carried aboard the ship? A. No.

Q. And if so, how? A. No, it never occurred to me.

Mr. Dow: That is all."

The Court of Appeals has stated that the District Court was not "* * * clearly erroneous in finding that the changes were *not* necessarily apparent to Elkins" (Pet., Op. 15a). Respondents claim on page 14 of their brief that Petitioners "* * * do not challenge the two courts' findings that the alterations were not observable by reasonable inspection." Petitioners submit that such findings, based upon Elkins' deposition, are unsupportable. We are not dealing with a needle in a haystack, here. We are concerned with four gigantic tanks on a small, 173 foot (Pet., Op. 2a) vessel and fittings "* * * located on or near a passageway where ship's equipment, fishing gear and personnel frequently pass[ed] back and forth" (F. F., R. 261).

Insurers *knew* gas in bulk was carried *below deck* prior to the Elkins 1957 survey (R. 780, 783-786; Marquat survey —Pltffs.' Exh. 16; R. 630). This knowledge put them upon inquiry as to the details and manner of this stowage and Petitioners cannot be considered remiss in assuming that

Insurers, through the Elkins survey, had satisfied themselves as to whether or not they should take the risk of insuring a fishing vessel with large quantities of bulk gasoline aboard.

Conclusion

Respondents' brief follows the path of the Court of Appeals in citing limitation of liability cases for putative insurance principles, in ignoring the decisions underlying the "privity" section of the *Marine Insurance Act*, in side-stepping the "perils of the seas" and "fire" coverage afforded by the policies, and in failing to acknowledge that any defect in the filing of a jury demand in the State court case was cured in open court before removal of this case on consent to the Federal court.

The Court of Appeals' opinion has crisscrossed the *Marine Insurance Act* with numerous propositions foreign to historical English marine insurance principles. The Anglo-American maritime community now looks to this Court for a proper delineation of the applicable law and usage.

There are special and important reasons for the granting of a writ of certiorari and Petitioners respectfully pray that such writ be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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